GENDER ALLOCATION TO WORDS IN URDU

BORROWED FROM ENGLISH

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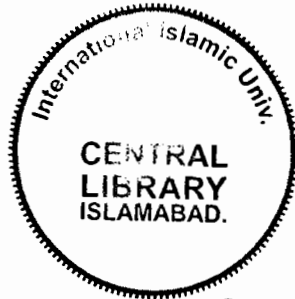DEGREE OF MASTERS OF PHILOSOPHY

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis **'Gender Allocation to Words in Urdu Borrowed from English'** by Ms. Momna Majid (Registration No. 12FLL/Mphil (Eng)/F04) under my supervision has been revised according to the suggestions proposed by an Examination Committee. It may kindly be submitted for the approval of degree.

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Abstract

Gender is fascinating as well as complex process. The recent controversy centers on whether gender allocation is random or a rule-governed activity. Many writers have established that gender assignment is based on certain criteria which vary from language to language. But two main criteria are found universally i.e. semantic and formal. Formal can be further classified into phonological and morphological. This study aims to investigate the basis for gender allocation in Urdu with a focus on how gender is allocated to English words borrowed from English. The study shows that Urdu shares with other languages of the world in that it uses two main criteria for gender assignment to nouns, namely, semantic and formal. However, Urdu also employs other criteria in gender assignment as well like size, the origin of the word.

DEDICATION

I dedicated this work to my loving mother who is a constant source of inspiration and

encouragement

for me in whatever I choose to do in my life.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Gender is the most interesting as well as bewildering term. It has different meanings in different fields of study. In biology for example it is used to mention the sex. But in linguistics it is a grammatical category of nouns. Nouns are marked gender by different ways. The most common way of denoting the gender is by attaching an affix to the noun. Most of the languages of the world have the system where a gender is assigned to a noun. On the other hand, there are languages, including English, which do not have a gender marking system, although the pronouns are marked for gender i.e. *she, he, it* etc. Gender marking on nouns is however common in world languages.

Languages also vary with regard to the range of gender assignment system they exhibit. Some languages have a very simple gender system – just masculine and feminine. In contrast, there are languages which have complex system of gender including masculine, feminine and neuter. There are languages which have even more complex gender system i.e. Russian where there is a set of noun classes and each class is assigned a gender according to their morphological or declension properties.

Gender studies have always attracted a great deal of attention in recent linguistic studies (cf. Corbett 1991). The question at the heart of the gender studies is whether assigning gender to a noun is rule-governed or it is a random marking. The writers can be broadly categorized into two main groups in this regard. One of the group believes that gender assignment is random and there is no underlying system with respect to assigning a gender to a noun. This thought dominated in mid 20th century. It is believed that choosing a gender of noun was purely arbitrary and the speakers of a language by their own choice selected which nouns should be assigned masculine and which feminine.

In sharp contrast to this view, there are writers who established that gender assignment to a noun in a language is not at all arbitrary but is a systematic and rule governed behaviour. The major evidence adduced in favour of this view is that, had the gender assigning been random the speakers would have made

no common gender assignment mistakes. But as we know this is not the case. It is also interesting to note that even young learners of a language occasionally make a gender-assigning mistake. Generally, they are able to correctly assign the gender, which points to the conclusion that gender assignment is a rule-governed activity which learners master at quite early age.

Given that assigning gender in most of languages is guided by certain set of rules, what are those rules, which inform the choice of the gender? This is the question that is at the heart of recent gender studies in various languages. Broadly speaking, there are two main criteria for assigning a gender to a noun in most of the languages of the world, namely, formal and semantic. In the semantic criterion, it is the biological gender of the referent, which forms the basis of gender assigning. For instance, most of the animate nouns are marked for masculine and feminine depending upon the sex of the referent i.e. *dog, bitch; horse, mare*, etc in English and *maan* 'mother' and *abbuu* 'father' in Urdu.

The other criterion for picking the right gender for a noun is referred to as 'formal' criterion. The formal criterion is further subcategorized into 'phonological' and 'morphological' categories. In the phonological criterion, affixes (pre-fixes, suffixes and infixes) provide clues for assigning the gender. For instance, in Urdu *–aa* endings is generally associated with masculine while *–ii* ending indicate the feminine in most of the cases.

Similarly, different languages use different morphological markings to differentiate between masculine and feminine or neuter etc. For instance, Russian divides nouns into various declension classes which are used as main means of identifying which noun is to be assigned to which gender class. Morphological marking is a complex system and is usually employed by language which exhibit a complex gender assignment system.

Apart from these two main criteria, different languages use other notions as well for assigning the gender. For instance, size is one of the criteria which helps in

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determining the gender class of a noun. Urdu is one of those languages which considers size as a category for imparting gender.

Gender assignment in Indo-Aryan languages (Masica 1991) is quite complex and it is not straightforward to assign a gender to a noun including Urdu. Urdu has a two-way gender system i.e. masculine and feminine. What this means is that every noun in Urdu has to be assigned to one of these two categories. Urdu in addition to semantic and formal criteria discussed above, uses other notions as well in the determination of gender of a noun.

How rule-governed is gender assignment in Urdu? Which or both of the semantic and formal criteria are used in determining the gender of a noun in Urdu? Is Urdu similar or in what respects it differs from other languages in imparting the gender to its nouns? Are the loanwords treated in the same manner in Urdu as are done the Urdu nouns themselves? These are some of the questions that have motivated this study.

As far as I am concerned, no study has been undertaken to investigate the criteria for assigning gender to nouns in Urdu. Gender assignment in Urdu is particularly interesting to look into as it also assigns gender to loanwords as well. Under this principle, all the English words that have made their way into Urdu, and many of them has done so, have to be assigned a gender regardless whether it had a gender in the language it came from. This is a fascinating phenomenon, which this study primarily aims to address. But, of course, to do so, it is important to understand first how the gender assignment works in Urdu.

This study specifically addresses following questions:

  a. What are the criteria for assigning gender to nouns in Urdu?
  b. How are English loanwords in Urdu assigned gender?

The study will employ various ways of collecting data including newspapers, ordinary conversation as well as the intuition of the researcher. The examples culled from various sources are used as a database for illustrating each phenomenon.

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The study is significant in many ways. In the first place, it contributes in understanding of how gender is assigned in Indo-Aryan languages as similar assigning criteria exist in other languages in the family.

The study will also shed light what principles Urdu employs while assigning gender to its nouns. It will particularly investigate what semantic and formal criteria or other principles for that matter are used in determining which noun will be assigned to which gender category.

The study is also expected to stimulate interest in Urdu on research and other languages spoken in Pakistan. The work consists of good body of data which not only can be used for further and comparative gender studies but can form a model for other researchers to conduct linguistics studies.

English loanwords in Urdu are growing and growing. The data presented in this study will also be useful for further studies.

1.1 Research Methodology

As mentioned in preceding section, the main objectives of this research are:

(a). To study the criteria for assigning gender to nouns in Urdu

(b). To allocate gender of English loanwords in Urdu

In order to carry out the study, first the literature on what gender is and gender is assigned to nouns in various languages of the world, a typological survey was carried out and various criteria for gender allocation were listed.

Having completed literature survey, the theoretical framework on gender developed by Corbett (1991) was described and was used as a basis for studying gender in Urdu. The criterion reported by Corbett (ibid) in various languages of world was kept in mind while searching for the criteria used by Urdu in gender allocation. This is a

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reputed and well quoted work on gender, particularly its focus on how gender is assigned to nouns across various languages of the world which exhibit complex gender systems. This work was used as a basis for investigating gender assignment in Urdu.

For data collection a number of various methods were used in order to make sure that data was fairly representative. First, as mentioned above, old works of writers on Urdu and Urdu poets were collected and their views on gender assignment were reviewed. As shall be progressively seen in the study, this view on gender assignment was relatively unsystematic and subjective as it was not based on a reliable body of data.

Other means of collecting data were also used including newspapers, observation and personal intuition i.e. constructing various examples by the researcher. The idea was to collect examples in real use. These sources were particularly used for collecting English words which have made their way into Urdu and how they are assigned gender since every noun of Urdu has to be assigned a gender regardless whether it is a Urdu word or a borrowed English word. This was done because one of the major focuses of the study was also to investigate how English loan words into Urdu are allocated gender and what are the main criteria while doing so.

The data collected was divided in various categories applying semantic and formal criteria i.e. phonological and morphological. Each semantic category was separately discussed explaining which semantic criterion was applied for assigning the gender to a noun. Nearly every category had exceptions to it, that is, there were cases where the rule should predicted a form which was not used. Efforts were made to account for these exceptions in order to justify the rule.

As we know, Urdu is a mixture of different languages so the researcher briefly discussed the gender assignment system of these languages too, because these languages influence the gender assignment system of nouns in Urdu.

This research also proved that most of the gender assignment rules of Urdu are extended while allocated gender to English nouns borrowed by Urdu which proves that gender assignment is a rule-governed phenomenon. All the three systems i.e. semantic, phonological, and morphological are used for gender allocation to English loan words. However, semantic and phonological systems are more commonly used as compared to morphological system.

CHAPTER TWO

GENDER ASSIGNMENT IN WORLD LANGUAGES

2.1 Gender and Agreement

Before discussing different assignment systems of gender allocation it is better to define what is gender. "Genders are classes of nouns reflected in the behavior of associated words" (Hockett, 1958: 231). These words may be adjectives, verbs, pronouns, numerals and conjunctions. For instance, as shown in examples from 1 to 3 Russian verbs show agreement in gender.

(1) *zurnal lezal – ø na stole*

Magazine lay – masculine on table

'the magazine lay on the table'.

(2) *kinga lezal – a na stole*

book lay – feminine on table

'the book lay on the table'

(3) *pismo lezal – o na stole*

letter lay, neuter on table

'the letter lay on the table'

The agreement markers are – *ø* (masculine) – a (feminine) and – O (neuter).

(Corbett, 1991: 110)

Gender agreement performs two important roles. Firstly it makes easier to realize the gender in language use and secondly it provides the basis for defining gender and its number in a language. Steels (1978: 610) gives a working definition of agreement

"The term agreement commonly refers to some systematic covariance between a semantic or formal property of one element and a formal property of another. For example adjectives may take some formal indication of the number and gender of the noun they modify." (Corbett, 1991:105)

For example in Russian

(4)	*nov – y j dom*	Masculine
	nov – aja gazeta	Feminine
	nov – oe taksi	Neuter

	New house	Masculine
	New newspaper	Feminine
	New taxi	Neuter

The above example shows that the adjective nov – changes according to the gender of the noun. This behavior of adjective is termed as gender agreement. Agreement in gender may occur in different associated words as adjectives, demonstratives, participles, verbs, relative pronouns, personal pronouns (Russian), definite and indefinite articles (French), numerals (chickewa), possessives (Swahili), adverb (Lak), adpositions (Abkhaz), complementizers (West Flemish) etc.

Similarly, complementizer shows agreement in gender.(Corbett, 1991:113). In West Flemish as shown in example in (1) below.

(5)   *dat*je *(jij) komt*
        That he comes
        dase (zie) komt
        That she comes
        .dat (et) komt
        That it comes

The above-mentioned examples show that agreement is also used as one of the determining criterion of gender.

2.2 Gender Assignment Systems

Most of the languages of the world have a gender system. In some languages it is very simple and easy to assign genders to nouns but in others it is a rather complex and difficult process. Now the question arises is there any mechanism or criteria involve for the assignment of genders to nouns or it is just a hit and trial process. Many studies have been conducted in the quest for an answer. Nevertheless, there are two main views regarding this question.

According to one view, gender assignment is a random affair and it is the best example of arbitrariness. Bloomfield (1993) is one of those who hold the view that "there seems to be no practical criterion by which the gender of a noun in German, French or Latin could be determined.

Maratos (1979) discussing the German gender system mentions somewhat similar view that

"the classification is arbitrary: No underlying rationale can be guessed at. The presence of such systems in a human cognitive system constitutes by itself excellent testimony to the occasional nonsensibleness of the species. Not only was this system devised by humans but generation after generation of children peacefully relearns it."

In the light of Maratos view, there is no system for the classification of genders. Yet, on the contrary, there are those who hold the view and they believe that there is large degree of systematicity for gender assignment. Later, this view is further strengthened by Zubin and Kopche who worked on German gender assignment and found that there are some phonological, morphological, and semantic regularities (Zubin and Kopche, 1986; Berkum, 1996:26).

The work of Corbett is also worthwhile in this regard. He studied the gender assignment system of different languages and mentioned the evidence for the systematicity of gender assignment in three main points. First, native speakers typically make few or no mistakes in the use of gender. Second, words borrowed from other languages acquire a gender, which shows that there is a mechanism for

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assigning gender. Third, when presented with invented words, speakers give them a gender and they do so with a high degree of consistency (1991:07).

On the basis of this evidence, Corbett (1994:1350) arrived at the conclusion that gender assignment is essentially systematic in all languages.

Thus, the above-mentioned discussion displays clearly that gender assignment is a systematic process and native speakers can work out the gender of a noun. There are different models, which the native speakers have to follow for the assignment of gender; these models are called assignment systems. According to Corbett (1991), these assignment systems are of two major types:

(1) Semantic systems

(2) Formal systems

2.2.1   Semantic Systems

In semantic systems, semantic factors are sufficient on their own to account for gender assignment. The semantic systems are further divided into two categories:

1.1   Strict Semantic Systems

1.2   Predominantly Semantic Systems

2.2.2   Strict Semantic Systems

In these systems, the meaning of a noun is ample enough to allot its gender. In different languages, different criteria are used for the assignment of gender because people perceive the world differently and this difference is reflected through their language. The major different sub criteria for the assignment of genders are discussed here.

In some languages, rationality is the criteria for assigning gender. For example in Tamil that is one of the major Dravidian languages, nouns are divided into rational (i.e., people, gods) and non-rational (animals and everything else). The rational gender is further divided into masculine and feminine and all non-rational are assigned neuter gender (Corbett, 1991: 08; Borditsky and Schmidt, 2000).

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Gender system of Tamil consists of three genders; masculine, feminine and neuter. This system becomes more obvious with the help of a table.

Gender Assignment in Tamil

Criterion	Gender	Examples	Gloss
God or Male Human	Masculine (= male rational)	*aan*	man
		civaN	Shiva
Goddess or female human	Feminine (= female rational)	*Pen*	Woman
		Kaali	Kali
Other	Neuter (= non- rational)	*Maram*	tree
		Viitu	house

(Corbett, 1991:09)

This assignment system works in a very consistent manner. Kannada, which is another member of Dravidian family, in that gender assignment system, is similar to Tamil. However, there is some exceptions to the semantic principle, for example *basava* "bull" and *Kooya* buffalo are masculine.(Andronov,1969:29;Corbett, 1991:10). The gender assignment of these animals is based on their special status in the society. Avar - Andi - Dido group of North-East Caucasian has also the same criterion of rationality for gender assignment. This group consists of all Andi language, which includes Akhvakh, Bagval, Godoberi and Karata.

Another important criterion is mythology. In some languages, gender is assigned according to mythology. For example in Telugu which is another member of Dravidian languages, the semantic assignment rules are similar to Tamil (Arden, 1873: 46; Corbett, 1991:10) In it male humans are given masculine, female humans feminine and others neuter gender. The gender to divine beings is given according to their role in mythology. (Corbett, 1991:10) If they are masculine in mythology then they are allotted masculine gender but if they are feminine or neuter then they are assigned feminine or neuter gender accordingly. Following this criterion *ganga* 'river' is feminine, *hanumantuDu* 'monkey' is masculine and *Kaamadheenuvu* 'cow' is neuter.

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In Ket also which is one of the languages of Siberia, mythology is one of the important criterion for gender assignment. In Ket 'Sun' is feminine, 'moon' is masculine, and 'fox' is feminine. These genders are assigned according to their role in myths.

In some languages the criteria is not human or non-human but there is sex differentiation among the non-human animates. It means the gender is assigned according to sex. For example, in Diyari which is an Australian Aboriginal language, first gender is for all female animates e.g. women, girls, bitches, doe kangaroos, etc., the second is for all others including male animates, non-female animates, non-sexed animates and all inanimates (Austin, 1981: 60; Corbett, 1991:11). The genders of Diyari language are also reflected by the third person singular pronouns.

An opposite system of Diyari occurs in Kala Lagaw Ya, which is the language of the Western Torres Straits Islands. In it the nouns, which are used for males, are separated as masculine and all others are feminine. In this language, the moon is assigned masculine gender (Bani 1987; Corbett, 1991:11).

Size is also one of the criteria of assigning gender in some languages. For example, in the Omotic language, Dizi that is spoken in the South West of Ethiopia has two genders and this is proved by adjectival and verbal agreement and by pronoun selection (Allan, 1976; Corbett, 1991:11). The feminine gender has two groups of nouns. First group of nouns representing females are feminine, for example: *dade* 'girl', *kuocin* 'woman', *wete* 'cow', while the second group of nouns are also feminine but at the same time they represent the small size e.g. *kieme* 'small pot', *orce* 'small broom' etc. The other nouns are given masculine gender.

A similar system is also found in Halkomelem, which is a Salish language and is used in British Columbia. It has two genders. The first gender consists of nouns for females and all diminutives. So the diminutives represent the female also. The remaining nouns belong to the masculine gender (Anderson, 1985:177-8; Corbett, 1991: 12).

The criterion of diminutive is also used in Archi which is a member of Lezgian subgroup of North-East Caucasian. It has four genders. Gender 1 consists of male rationales e.g. *dija* 'father', *dozja* 'grandfather', *Allah*, 'God' while gender II comprises all female rationals for example *dozba*, 'grandmother' *baba* 'aunt' *quart* 'witch'; whereas, gender III and IV are assigned to domestic animals and birds respectively. Nonetheless, there is also a correlation between nouns representing large and small size. The contrasts between gender III and IV becomes clearer with the help of a table.

Contrasts between genders III and IV in Archi

Gender III	Gender IV
sahru 'town'	xlor 'village'
xlit 'scoop'	xlit 'spoon'
k, 'unk' um 'large pan'	k, 'unk' um 'small pan'

(Corbett 1991:28)

The above table clearly shows that in Archi, size is also one of the criteria for gender assignment.

The criterion of size is also used in Alamblak that is a Sepik Hill language of Papua New Guinea. There are two genders masculine and feminine. The masculine gender consists of not only males but it also includes nouns whose referents are tall, long and slender or narrow. Therefore, crocodile, long snakes, fish, spears, arrows, tall and slender trees are included in this gender. On the other hand the feminine gender in addition of females also consists of nouns which are used for short, squat or wide entities for example turtle, frog, house, fighting shield and trees which are typically more round and squat (Brucle 1984: 96 - 8; Foley 1986: 80 - 1; Corbett 1991: 32). From this example, it becomes clear that beside size, shape is also used as a criterion in some languages for assigning gender.

A rather less complicated gender system of English, which is a Germanic language, is based on Semantic. In it nouns representing male humans are masculine

and nouns which denoting female humans are feminine, while the other nouns are neuter. However, some complications are due to idiolectal or dialectal variation. For instance, the use of *it* in referring to a small child of unknown gender, of *he* or *she* in referring to domestic animals, and the use of *she* in referring to ships.

An identical gender assignment system is found in Avar, which is the member of North East Caucasian language. In it masculine gender consists of male human, feminine gender comprises of female human and neuter has other nouns. In Avar, however, some verbs and adjectives have to agree in gender with their noun (Comrie, 1999:459)

An important point about Defaka, which is a south central Niger - Congo language, is that like English it also has a pronominal gender system. In English gender is reflected in personal, possessive, and reflexive pronouns while in Defaka gender is manifested only on personal pronouns. (Corbett, 1991:12)

2.3   Predominantly Semantic Systems

As mentioned earlier in strict semantic systems, the meaning of a noun play crucial role to assign its gender. Nevertheless, there are some exceptions but there is no confusion in its basic rule. In addition, in some other languages as well the basic assignment system is semantics though for the exceptions, the concept of 'Semantic residue' works. The 'semantic residue' consists of nouns whose gender is not assigned according to a positive semantic criterion (Dixon, 1972:.311; Corbett, 1991:13) and nouns are not assigned with single gender but different genders.

The languages, which display this character for the assignment of gender, are for instance; Dyirbal that is an Australian language, its gender assignment is shown with the help of table below.

Gender Assignment in Dyirbal

Gender I	(bayi)	*Male humans, non-human animates*
Gender II	(balan)	*female humans, water, fire, fighting*
Gender III	(balam)	*Non-flesh food*
Gender IV	(bala)	*Residue*

(Dixon, 1982:178; Corbett, 1991:16)

As the table shows, Gender I includes all nouns denoting male humans and also non-human animates. Gender II consists of female humans and a number of other nouns. Gender III contains only nouns of non-flesh food. Gender IV includes all in-animates and residual nouns. No doubt, the assignment system has a semantic core but there are exceptions too. In this regard, Dixon (1972) argues that the criterion of 'concept association' works here for gender assignment. However, Lakoff (1990) uses a term 'radial category' for this conceptual association and he describes that this category has a conceptual core and then radiates out by association. Thus, 'fishing line' and 'fishing spear' that should be in Gender IV are actually in Gender I because of their association with fish, which are in Gender I. Similarly the birds which should be in Gender I are actually in Gender II because in Dyirbal mythology birds are considered to be the spirits of dead women and so they are assigned the same gender as women (Comrie, 1999:461). Nonetheless, changes have taken place in the gender system.

Ket is one of the languages of Siberia. (Corbett, 1991:19) It has three genders. The main classification of its system is Masculine (male animate), Feminine (female animate) and Neuter (residue). As in the culture of Ket's people, wood occupies a special place so it also has a role in gender system. Large wooden objects are assigned masculine while small wooden objects are assigned neuter gender. From this gender assignment, it becomes clear that sometimes culture also plays an important role in gender allocation.

Ojibwa is an Algonquian language (Hallowell, 1955[1967:116]; Corbett 1991: 20). Its gender system is based on semantic principle of animacy. It has two genders

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animate and inanimate. Black-Rogers (1982:63) have observed the power belief system of Ojibwa's speakers and her hypothesis is that grammatically animate things have powers. However, she also believes that "the loci of power vary for different individuals and also over time, with a stock market type of fluctuation that must be constantly monitored and one's own input taken into consideration" (1982, 64).

Hence, Ojibwa's gender system has the impact of belief system of its speakers. Further, the study has proved that there is considerable similarity in Ojibwa and other *Algonquian* languages like in Menominee (Bloomfield, 1962: 26-36) and in Cree (Darnell and Vanek, 1976; Black- Rogers 1982; Joseph, 1979; and Graik, 1982 quoted in Corbett, 1991:22).

It is interesting to notice that politeness is also one of the criteria of gender system. It is observed in Lak that is a member of Caucasian family. Its gender system has four genders. Gender 1 consists of male rational, Gender II contains female rational, Gender III comprises of other animate (some female humans and many inanimates) while Gender IV has residue. At an earlier stage there was an exceptional noun: *dus* 'girl, daughter', was in Gender III instead of Gender II. Later on, Gender III agreements became a sign of politeness when addressing to young women (Khaidakov, 1963:49-50; Corbett 1991:26). Now Gender II forms are used to address older women such as *ninu* 'mother' and *amu* 'grandmother' and Gender III is used to address younger ones or who are earning their own living (Khaidakov, 1966:131; Corbett 1991:26).

Regarding gender assignment, domesticity and concreteness are the other criteria. For example in Archi that is another member of Caucasian family, has four genders. Male rationals like *dija* 'father', *dozja* 'grandfather', *Allah* 'God' are in Gender I and female rationals like *dozba* 'grandmother' *baba* 'aunt' and *quart* 'witch' are in Gender II. In Gender III and Gender IV the criteria domesticity works. Domestic animals and birds are assigned Gender III and wild animals and birds are given Gender IV. Similarly, there is distinction between concrete and abstract objects; the concrete objects are in Gender III while abstracts are in Gender IV.

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In addition to the above-mentioned criteria, there are other criteria too. For example in Rikvani dialect of Andi that is one of Caucasian language, has an additional sixth gender for insects. Another example is of Ngangi Kurrungurr, which is a member of the Daly group of northern Australia. It has nine genders. Its second Gender is for hunting weapons and the last Gender that is the ninth one, is for canines. Yet another example is that of Anindilyakwa, which has a separate gender for those items whose lustrous surface reflects light (Leeding, 1989:248). The above-mentioned examples show that sometimes some special quality can be the criterion of gender determination.

Different criteria of gender assignment have been discussed. From all discussion, an important point that comes to the surface is that the Worldview of speaker accounts a lot to allot the gender of a noun. Furthermore, it also becomes clear that in some languages like Tamil and other Dravidian languages, the meaning of a noun determines its gender but in other languages the meaning is not enough to determine gender, therefore, form of the noun has to be considered.

2.4   Formal Criteria or Formal Systems

Comrie (1999) agrees with Corbett (1991:34) that there are no systems that are purely formal; however, there are systems that are purely semantic but at the same time, the form of a noun plays a major role in gender assignment in different languages.

Formal criteria or formal systems include two types of information about the noun i.e. morphological and phonological. In phonology the basic form of the noun is involved while in morphology more than one form is involved while assigning gender to a noun.

2.4.1   Phonology

In formal criteria, the phonology has an important role in gender assignment. In different languages, there are different criteria of phonology of assigning gender. Some of them are discussed here.

In some languages, the position of accent determines gender. For example in Qafar, which is an East Cushitic language, accent position is enough for gender assignment. Its gender system consists of two genders; masculine and feminine. According to semantic assignment system, male humans and male animals are masculine for example *baqla* 'husband'. Likewise female humans and the female animals are feminine, for example *barra* 'woman, wife'. Moreover, its phonological system is wonderful (Parker and Hayward, 1985:.225; Corbett, 1991:51). According to phonological system in Qafar, nouns whose citation form ends in a vowel and are unaccented, are included in feminine gender while others are in masculine gender e.g. *gilal* 'winter' and *tamu* 'taste'. Most of the nouns in Qafar acquire gender according to phonological rules. Nevertheless, there are some exceptions to these rules and in some nouns, the semantic and phonological rules are in conflict but in such cases, semantic rules take precedence. For example, *abba,* 'father' is masculine because of its meaning but it ends in an accented vowel, which is an indication of feminine gender. Similarly *gabbixeera* 'slender – waisted' female is feminine according to semantic rule and the accent is not on the final vowel which is a phonological rule, here again semantic rule is applicable.

In some languages, the place of articulation of the final vowel is sufficient to determine its gender. For instance, in Godie, which is a member of Kru group of languages of Niger- Kordofanian family, this criterion is used for gender assignment (Marchese, 1986, 1988). The basic semantic criterion in this language is between human and non-human. A large number of nouns are assigned gender according to phonological criterion. There are two series of vowels, retracted and unretracted. There are three tones high ('), mid (not marked) and low ('). Personal pronouns in Godie are shown through a table:

Personal Pronouns in Godie

	Singular	Plural
Human	ɔ	wa
Non-human	ɛ	
	a	l
	μ	

<div align="right">(Corbett, 1991:53)</div>

Nouns that indicate humans like nyu kpɔ 'man' take /ɔ/ as their anaphoric pronoun as well as their agreement marker. However, when represent plural for example *nyukp2* 'men' they take *wa* as their anaphoric pronoun and agreement marker.

Non-human nouns are explained with the help of another table, which is given below.

Assignment of Inanimates in Godie

Gender	Criterion	Example	Gloss
ɛ	large animal	lʋɛ	elephant
		gwɛ	chimpanzee
2	Small animal	kəmə	Crab
		Nú	louse
ʋ	liquid	Nyú	water
		mtə	Tear
		Zo	Soup
	non-solid mass	Gbaylo	smoke
		Zuzu	spirit
	natural element	lagə	sky, God
		ylʋ	Sun
		Kosu	Fire

(Corbett 1991:53)

Nevertheless, the phonological rules that are applicable to a large number of nouns can be summarized as:

1. Nouns whose stem ends in a front vowel /i, l, e, or Ɛ/ belong to Gender Ɛ
2. Nouns whose stem ends in a central vowel /i, u, *à or 2/* belong to Gender 2
3. Nouns whose stem ends in a back vowel /u, ʋ, o, or ɔ/ belong to Gender ʋ.

The examples that are given in the table show that these rules are applicable to them. Thus, in Godie we observe that place of articulation of last vowel is used for gender determination.

In some languages, the special consonant ending of a noun indicates its gender. This criterion of gender assignment we observe in Yamas language that is a member of lower Sepik, (Foley, 1986:78, 86-9 and Personal Communication). This language has eleven genders. Its gender system consists of semantic and phonological assignment rules. The first four genders are based on semantic rules. The following table gives an overview of this study.

Semantic assignment in Yimas

Criterion	Gender	Examples	Gloss
male human	I	*namarawt*	Man
		Macawk	Father-in-law
female human	II	*Narmay*	Woman
		Yayuk	Mother
higher animal	III	*Yuva*	Dog
		Manpa	Crocodile
plant (important)	IV	*Tinum*	Sago palm
		Iripum	Coconut palm

(Corbett, 1991:56)

As it is clear from the above table that Gender I and II is for male and female human and Gender III is for higher animals and Gender IV consist of those plants and products which are important from Sepik Basin's cultural point of view. However some nouns of Gender II end in *-may*; nouns of Gender III by their dual and plural forms and nouns of Gender IV those end in *-um*. This phonological criterion is more useful than semantic criterion.

Further, Gender V to Gender XI are concerned, they are assigned gender on the basis of phonological criterion as can be seen in the following table:

Phonological assignment in Yimas

Singular ending in	Gender	Examples	Gloss
-ŋk	VI	Kaŋk	shell
		*Kray*ŋk	Frog
-mp	VII	im*pra*mp	basket
		*tampaym*p	hanger
-i	VIII	A*w*i	Axe
		awtmayŋi	sugar cane
-aw	IX	Trukaw	knee
		Yaw	road
-uk	X	Antuk	mouth
		Awruk	bandicoot
-uŋk	XI	Awŋk	egg
		Kawŋk	wall
Residue	V	Yan	tree
		Awak	star

(Corbett, 1991:56)

From the above table it becomes clear that the nouns of Gender VI has singular ending in –ŋk, VII has –*mp*, VII has –i IX has –*aw*, Gender X has –*uk* Gender XI has –*w*ŋk. Gender V consists of all those nouns that have singular endings in either of these consonants that are k, l, m, n, ŋ, p, r or t. So in case of Yimas, generally the phonological criterion is used to determine its gender. In some nouns the phonological form of a noun is sufficient to know its morphology and from this the gender of a noun can easily be determined.

In French, which is a member of Romance group of languages of Indo-European family different phonemes, are helpful to determine its gender. Its gender system consists of two genders, masculine and feminine. According to semantic rules, nouns that represent males are masculine and nouns, which indicate females, are

feminine (Tucker, Lambert and Rigault, 1977). These rules are applicable to a large number of nouns. Nonetheless, there is also a morphological rule according to which compound nouns that are formed from a verb and some other element are masculine. Furthermore, phonological rules also apply to most of the nouns. According to phonological rules, nouns which have endings in / ezy / , /sjz /, /zjz/, / Z j Z / and /tj Z/ are feminine and the rest of the nouns in / Z / are masculine. So it becomes clear that in French the ending of a noun is the major factor in gender assignment.

The above-mentioned discussion, evidently displays that any kind of phonological information is helpful to assign gender.

2.4.2 Morphology

Morphology of a language also provides useful information for gender assignment. Both morphology and semantic of a noun are related to one another and there are two reasons for it. Firstly, the morphological rules have a semantic core; they assign gender to the nouns that are in semantic residue. Hence, it means that the morphological rules work where semantic rules fail. Secondly, sometimes the morphological rules overlap with the semantic. There are different criteria on which the morphological system of gender assignment is based. Some of them are mentioned below.

In gender assignment, sometimes, inflectional morphology of a noun is important. Gender system in Russian language is an example of this Russian is an East Slavonic language. According to semantic gender, assignment rules the nouns are divided into three genders that are masculine, feminine, and neuter (Corbett, 1991:35). Nonetheless, the semantic residue is assigned gender according to the morphological form of the nouns. Russian has four main declensional types or four main noun paradigms. (Corbett, 1982:202-11; Corbett, 1991:36) The following table shows these four noun paradigms:

According to semantic rules in Russian, nouns that indicate males are masculine while the nouns, which represent females, are feminine.

Noun Paradigms in Russian

	I	II	III	IV
Singular				
Nominative	Zakon	Škola	kosť	Vino
Accusative	Zakon	Školu	kosť	Vino
Genitive	zakona	Školy	kosti	Vina
Dative	zakonu	Škole	kosti	Vinu
Instrumental	zakonom	školoj	kosťju	Vinom
Locative	zakone	Škole	kosti	Vine
Plural				
Nominative	zakony	Školy	kosti	Vina
Accusative	zakony	Školy	kosti	Vina
Genitive	zakonov	Škol	kostej	Vin
Dative	zakonam	školam	kostjam	Vinam
Instrumental	zakonami	školami	kostjami	Vinami
Locative	zakonax	školax	kostjax	Vinax
	'law'	'school'	'bone'	'wine'

Note: Forms are transliterated from the standard orthography, which is largely morphophonemic. Palatalization is indicated by both 'and j (Corbett, 1991:36).

If we consider the phonology of Russian language, we will notice that there is a sort of relation between phonology and declensional type. Nouns that are in declension III they all have palatalized stems while the remaining three declensions that are I, II and IV have nouns that have palatalized variants. If we know the declensional type, the case, number, and inflection of a noun, we can predict its gender very easily.

Morphologically, the assignment rules of gender in Russian are as follows:
1. Nouns of declensional type I are masculine.
2. Nouns of declensional type II and III are feminine.
3. Nouns of declension type IV are neuter.

(Corbett, 1991:36)

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These rules are for declinable nouns. Similarly, in case of indeclinable nouns, the gender of head noun of acronyms is assigned by morphological rules, which are mentioned above. According to semantic rules the nouns that are used for animates, are assigned masculine gender while the remaining are allocated neuter gender.

In Bantu languages, the number of noun class or morphological is one of the important criteria for gender assignment. The number of morphological class varies in different languages. It is generally from ten to twenty. Swahili is a member of Bantu languages. Its gender assignment system is a little bit complicated. It is based on semantic and morphological assignment system. It has 18 morphological classes. The distribution of nouns into different morphological classes is based on the following criteria.

According to Semantic assignment system augmentatives assign gender 5/6, e.g *j-oka* 'giant snake' while diminutives allocate gender 7/8, e.g. k: *-j-oka*, 'tiny snake' and the remaining animates put in 1/2 gender e.g *m-just*, 'lizard' *mw-alimu* 'teacher' etc.

However, the morphological assignment system also applies to a large number of nouns. Morphological system assigns morphological class 3/4 to gender 3/4, morphological class 5/6, to gender 5/6, morphological class 7/8, to gender 7/8, morphological class 9/10 to gender 9/10, morphological class 11/10, to gender 11/10, and infinitives that are in morphological class, are assigned gender 15. Gender forms of Swahili are also expressed with the help of a table.

Gender Assignment in Bantu Languages

Controller Gender	Typical morphological Form (prefixes on nouns)	Target gender form Verbal agreements
1/2	m-/wa-	a-/wa-
3/4	m-/mi-	u-/i-
5/6	ø –ji-/ma-	li/ya-

7/8	ki - / vi-	ki - / vi-
9/10	n-/n-	i-/zi-
11/10	u-/N-	u-/zi
15	ku-	кu-

<div align="right">(Corbett, 1991)</div>

From the above table it becomes clear that in Swahili prefix and agreement marker assign the gender. Swahili has gaps and it does not have 12, 13, 14, classes. Furthermore, it has 16, 17, 18, classes as well but there are locatives that are not mentioned here.

In German language also prefix has an important role in determining the gender. For example in word *Gestrauch Ge-* prefix is neuter and *Strauch, 'bush'* is masculine. Due to this prefix *Ge - Gestrauch* is neuter.

Just like prefixes, suffixes also play an important role to determine the gender. For example in German language abstract nouns which are formed with the suffixes – *ung, -heit,* erei, *-schaft* and *keit* are feminine. While diminutives with suffixes-lein and -chen are mostly neuter. For example in *Mannchen,* Mann 'man' is masculine but *Mannchen* 'little man' is neuter because of suffix –chen.

As far as compound nouns are concerned, in some languages it is the first element, which is used to assign gender. For example in Monkhmer language Khasi the first element of compound noun is used to allocate gender e.g. in maaw- ' *dur* 'statue' *maaw* 'stone' is masculine and *dur is* feminine. Due to first element *maaw* 'stone' it is masculine. In some languages, however, the criterion is very much opposite and it is the last element that determines gender. For instance, in compound noun, in German *Mausmannchen* 'male mouse' is neuter *Maus* is feminine and *Mannchen* is neuter so the whole compound is neuter.

In morphological gender assignment system, inflections of nouns are more important than derivations because if assignment of gender is based on derivations

then it cannot include large number of nouns because most of the nouns are not derived morphologically.

2.5   Conclusion

The typological survey with regard to gender assignment shows that different systems and criteria are used in world languages for gender assignment. In some languages for example in Tamil semantic criteria is sufficient to determine its gender. By studying gender assignment in different languages, we come to this conclusion that the worldview of the speakers matters a lot for gender assignment. Further, it also becomes amply obvious that sometimes a criterion that is the main defining factor in one language may be just a contributory factor in another, for instance; Chichewa and many other Bantu languages have a gender for diminutives but in Dizi, Halkomelem and Archi it is not the only criteria for genders. In true gender systems a nouns is assigned same gender by two or more than two different criteria.

There are some languages in which all nouns are not assigned gender according to semantic criteria and we have to consider the formal criteria too. In formal criteria the phonology and morphology of a nouns is involved as gender systems in Qafer, Russian, and French. The views of Tucker, Lambert and Rigault (1977:62) are worthwhile regarding the gender assignment for French.

In order to decide on gender, the native speaker has merely to process a noun back from its terminal phone. The implications of this "backward processing" are tremendously exciting for they suggest that gender classification is an active process which requires a well developed skill dependent upon the speakers linguistic experience (Corbett, 1991: 61).

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CHAPTER THREE

GENDER ASSIGNMENT IN URDU

3.1. Introduction

In the previous chapter, different systems of gender allocation in different languages have been discussed. This chapter focuses on investigating the criteria for determining gender assignment in Urdu.

Urdu belongs to the Indo-Aryan branch of the Indo-European family of languages.[1] There are about fifty five million of Urdu speakers in the world. In Pakistan, there are nearly eleven million speakers of Urdu. Urdu is also the national language of Pakistan. (Schmidt, 2006: XVI).

Urdu and Hindi both are grammatically identical languages; nevertheless, the most important and major difference is in their written form. Urdu is written in Persian Script while Hindi is written in Devanagari Script. Urdu has many Persian and Arabic words but Hindi has Sanskrit words. (Bartz and Yadav, 1993: 277).

As we know that a language is evolved because of different factors. It is not a planned process. As far as Urdu is concerned, it evolved in the later half of the 16th century in the Sub-continent. It was the language of Akbar's army. It evolved from the amalgamation of many languages, (i.e. Arabic, Hindi, Persian, Pashto, Sanskrit, Turkish) for communication (Glassman, 1977: XII).

However, there are some other views about the origin of Urdu. According to Katzner, (1995) Urdu is a dialect of Hindi spoken for centuries in the neighborhood of Delhi. Bailey (1932), also expressed his view that Urdu is one form of Khari Boli. Nevertheless, whatever the true origin of Urdu, one thing is obvious that it contains a lot of Persian, Arabic and Turkish words.

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[1] For further details, visit www.iranica.com / newsite / orticles / undicode / of.

Urdu grammarians classify all parts of speech into three main headings Verbs, Nouns, and Particles and their classification is based on the Arabic terminology (Platts, 2002: 21). Leaving the other parts of speech aside, this study will focus on nouns from gender point of view. In Urdu all nouns have to be assigned a gender - masculine or feminine.

As mentioned in the previous chapter, gender is a class of nouns reflected in the behaviour of associated words. In Urdu these associated words are verb, adjective and possessive pronouns and they show gender agreement. Consider the following examples.

> (1)   *voh pani peeta hai.*
> He drinks water.
>
> *voh pani peeti hai.*
> She drinks water.

(1) shows that *peeta* 'drink, masculine' and *peeti* 'drink, feminine' are verbs and they indicate the gender of the subject. In many cases, when an Urdu verb ends with *a* or *aa*, it indicates the masculine gender while verb ending *–i* or *–ii* refers to feminine gender.

Sometimes adjective performs this function. In the following example, the word *accha* and *acchi which* are adjectives indicate gender:

> (2)   *voh achha hai.*
> He is good.
>
> *Voh achhi hai.*
> She is good.

In Urdu, possessive pronoun also shows gender agreement.

(3)   *Ye tumhara basta hai.*

This is your bag.

Ye tumhari pencil hai.

This is your pencil.

In the above-mentioned example, *basta* "bag" is masculine and it is assessed by *tumhara, which* is possessive pronoun. In the second sentence, pencil is feminine and it is expressed by *tumhari.* It is evident from the above examples that other parts of speech can also help to know the gender of a noun.

As mentioned in the previous chapter that gender assignment is a systematic process so Urdu like other languages, also have gender assignment systems. These systems are based on two types of information about the noun i.e. its meaning and its form. Information about form is further divided into phonology and morphology of the noun. Let us see how these systems work in Urdu.

3.2.   Semantic System

As mentioned previously, in some languages sex differentiation is the criterion of assigning gender to nouns. In Urdu this criterion is applicable in the similar fashion.

Under this view, all common and proper nouns that are used for males are masculine and those that are used for females are feminine. We can say that sometimes biological or natural gender of a noun expresses the gender of a noun. (Schmidt, 2004: 02). In this case, the words for masculine and feminine are totally different (Subzwari, 1982: 62). The following examples illustrate this point.

S. No.	Masculine		Feminine	
(i)	*baap*	' father'	*Maan*	'mother'
(ii)	*shauhar*	'husband'	*beevi*	'wife'
(iii)	*bael*	'bull'	*gae*	'cow'
(iv)	*nawaab*	'landlord'	*begum*	'landlady'
(v)	*badshah*	'king'	*malkaa*	'queen'

In the above examples, there are separate words for masculine and feminine, biological gender is used for gender assignment.

However, there are some nouns in Urdu, which are always used as masculine. e.g.

| (i) | *nabi* | 'Prophet' |
| (ii) | *farishta* | 'angel' |

In our religion, *nabi* and *faristha* have always been a man.[2] Therefore, there are many other examples of nouns in Urdu, which are always used as masculine e.g.

| (i) | *pehalwan* | 'wrestler' |
| (ii) | *daeu* | 'giant' |

Some qualities are associated with males only. Physical strength and toughness is also included in it. That is why *pehalwan* 'wrestler' and *daeu* 'giant' is always used as masculine.

In contrast to this, some other nouns are always used as feminine. e.g.

(i)	*daaya or daaii*	'midwife'
(ii)	*peri*	'fairy'
(iii)	daein	'witch'

The above-mentioned examples are always used as feminine because of their qualities that is of care giving, delicacy and harshness respectively.

In addition to this there are some nouns, which are used for both males and females. They are common such as.

(i)	*musafir*	'passenger'
(ii)	*mehmaan*	'guest'
(iii)	*khelaari*	'player'

(Makhdoom, 1952: 67)

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[2] From Islamic point of view, man is superior to woman; therefore all heavenly and noble creatures are bestowed male gender.

The above-mentioned three categories of nouns on the basis of gender are equally applicable to animals and birds.

There are some nouns, which are always used as masculine e.g.

(i)	*kavva*	'crow'
(ii)	*ullu*	'owl'
(iii)	*cheetah*	'tiger'
(iv)	*kachva*	'tortoise'
(v)	*khargosh*	'rabbit'
(vi)	*gidh*	'vulture'

The above-mentioned four nouns are masculine because of their phonological endings while the remaining two are masculine because of their qualities that is swiftness and preying.

On the other hand, there are some other nouns that are always considered as feminine e.g.

(i)	*gulehri*	'squirrel'
(ii)	*chipkalee*	'lizard'
(iii)	*machlee*	'fish'
(iv)	*makkhi*	'fly'
(v)	*fakhta*	'dove'
(vi)	*chamgader*	'bat'

The first four nouns are feminine because of their phonological endings and the last two are feminine because of their qualities, *fakhta* 'dove' is delicate and *chamgader* 'bat' is weak and needs support and these qualities are generally associated with feminine.

There are certain nouns in Urdu (third category) that are used as masculine and feminine as well e.g.

(i)	*bulbul*	'a singing bird'

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Sometimes it is used as masculine and sometimes as feminine

(i)   *janvar*   'animal'

(ii)   *parinda*   'bird'

(Makhdoom, 1952: 67; Danish, 1970: 29; Subzwari, 1982: 62)

In Urdu, regarding gender assignment, an interesting point is that masculine gender is sometimes used for feminine. A mother out of love and affection can call her daughter baita 'son' which is usually used for masculine. (Makhdoom 1952: 68; Danish, 1970: 29; Subzwari, 1982: 62)

The criterion of 'concept association' as in Dyirbal also works in Urdu. Bar-e-Azam 'Continent' is masculine so the names of all continents are masculine e.g.

(i)   *aeshia*

(ii)   *urep*

(iii) *shumali amrica*

(iv)   *janubi amrica*

(v)   *intarctica*

(vi)   *astralia*

(vii) *africa*

mulk 'Country' is masculine so the names of all countries are masculine e.g.

(i)   *pakistan*

(ii)   *amrica*

(iii) *iran*

(iv)   *saudi arab*

(v)   *afghanistan*

(vi)   *japan*

(vii) *cheen*

shehar 'city' is masculine so the names of all cities are masculine.

(i)   *karachi*

(ii)   *lahore*

(iii)   *peshawar*

(iv)   *faisalabad*

(v)   *gujrat*

(vi)   *islamabad*

(vii)   *multan*

(viii)   *dubai*

(ix)   *bangkak*

(x)   *peeking*

Similarly *pahar* 'mountain' *samadur* 'sea' and *darya* 'river' is masculine so the names of most of the mountains, seas and river are masculine.

(i)   *nanga perbut*

(ii)   *mont everest*

(iii)   *baehrul kahil*

(iv)   *baehre – hind*

(v)   *daryae ganga*

(vi)   *daryae chenab*

(vii)   *daryae ravi*

(viii)   *daryae jhelum*

sayiara 'planet' is masculine so the names of all planets are masculine except *zameen* 'earth' which is feminine e.g.

(i)   *suraj*

(ii)   *atarad*

(iii)   *zohra*

(iv)   *zameen*

(v)   *mareekh*

(vi)   *urenus*

(vii)   *nepchun*

dhaat 'metal' is masculine so the names of all metals are masculine e.g

(i)   *sona*

(ii)   *peetal*

(iii) *tanmba*

On the other hand, *chaandi* 'silver' is feminine because of its phonological ending. Furthermore, *maheena* 'month' and *din* 'day' are masculine so the names of all months and days are masculine e.g.

(i)   moharram

(ii)   saffar

(iii)   rabi-ul-awal

(iv)   rabi-ul-sani

(v)   jamadi-ul-awal

(vi)   jamadi-ul-sani

(vii)   rajab

(viii) shabaan

(ix)   ramazaan

(x)   shawaal

(xi)   zilqad

(xii)   zul Haj

The names of all days are masculine except *jumerat*. It is argued that *jumerat* is allocated feminine gender due to its ending.

(i)   *jumma*   friday

(ii)   *hafta*   saturday

(iii)   *itvaar*   sunday

(iv)   *peer*   monday

(v)   *mangal*   tuesday

(vi)   *budh*   wednesday

(vii)   *jumeraat*   thursday

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There are a lot of other examples of such nouns, which are assigned gender according to this criterion. For instance, *zaban* 'language' is feminine in Urdu so the names of all languages are assigned feminine gender like.

(i)   *urdu*

(ii)   *balochi*

(iii)   *sindhi*

(iv)   *punjabi*

(v)   *gujrati*

(vi)   *pushto*

(vii)   *farsi*

nammaz 'prayer' is feminine that's why the names of all prayers are feminine.

(i)   *fajr*

(ii)   *zoher*

(iii)   *assar*

(iv)   *maghrib*

(v)   *isha*

(vi)   *ishrak etc*

daal 'pulse' is feminine so the names of all pulses are feminine. Similarly wind is feminine so the words which are used for different kind of winds are also feminine e.g. *saba* 'breeze' *aandhi* 'storm'. (Subzwari 1982: 69). Nonetheless, there are exceptions too e.g. *bagola, jheker* etc.

Regarding the criterion of concept association, the example of sound is worthwhile. *Aawaaz* 'sound' is feminine so the words that represent sounds are also feminine. e.g.

(i)	*badil ki garej*	'thunder'
(ii)	*hawa ki serserahat*	'mild sound of breeze'
(iii)	*makhiown ki binbinahat*	'humming sound of bees'
(iv)	*Parindown ki chehchahat*	'chirping of birds'.

However, there are some exceptions to this rule, if the words expressing sounds end in long vowel (-aa) as *dhamaka* 'blast' *kehkhaa* 'laughter' then they are masculine.

<div align="right">(Makhdoom, 70; Danish 1970: 128)</div>

Another interesting example is of *aasmaan* 'sky' and *zameen* 'earth'. *aasmaan* sky is masculine and *zameen* earth is feminine so the conveyances related to sky are masculine and those which are related to earth are feminine e.g. (Danish 1970: 118)

(i)	*tayyaraa*	' aeroplane'
(ii)	*helikapter*	'helicopter'
(iii)	*rakit*	'rocket'
(iv)	*gaari*	'car'
(v)	*rail*	'train'
(vi)	*baas*	'bus'

However, there are some exceptions to this rule e.g.

(i)	tanga	'tonga'
(ii)	chakraa	'cart'

They are masculine because of their phonological endings.

As mentioned in the previous chapter, size is also one of the criteria of gender assignment in some languages of the world as in Dizi, Halkomelem and Archi. This criterion is also used in Urdu. Just as in other languages, large, huge things are given masculine gender while small, diminutive are assigned feminine gender, and the same is true to Urdu.

In Urdu, the things that are small in relation to large things are feminine. For instance, *pahaar* 'large mountain' is masculine but *pahaari* 'small' mountain' is also huge but it is small relatively to *pahaar* that is why it is feminine. Some other examples are as follow.

S. No.	Masculine		Feminine	
(i)	*tokra*	'large basket'	*tokri*	'small basket'
(ii)	*thaela*	'large bag'	*thaeli*	'small bag'
(iii)	*piyala*	'bowl'	*piyali*	'cup'

It is interesting to note that in Urdu there are some nouns which are used sometimes as masculine and sometimes as feminine. Their gender depends on the context. For example, noun *magrib* 'west' is when used for a specific time of the day is feminine but is used as masculine when it represents geographical location or direction. Similarly, noun *shaam* when used as name of country is masculine and it is feminine when it is used as specific time of the day. In addition to this, noun *aab* when it is used in the meaning of water is masculine but it is feminine when it is used in the sense of shining. (Subzwari, 1982: 70).

Due to progress in science and technology, most of the scientific words are added in the vocabulary of Urdu. Mostly these words are given masculine gender e.g.

(i)	*johar*	'atom.
(ii)	*khulia*	'cell.
(iii)	*germaaya*	'geyser'
(iv)	*serdaya*	'refrigerator, water cooler'
(v)	*adsaa*	'lens'

(Jalibi, 1992: 2354)

The next gender assignment system in Urdu is phonological system. This system is widely used. Most of the nouns are assigned gender merely on the basis of phonology. The detail of phonological system is given below:

3.3. Phonological System

In Urdu most of the nouns that end in long vowel / a: / are masculine e.g.

(i)	*gharaa*	'an earthen vessel.

(ii)	*hira*	'diamond.
(iii)	larka	'boy.
(iv)	*baita*	'son.

Similarly nouns that end in / u: / long vowel are masculine e.g.

(i)	*aalu*	'Potato'.
(ii)	*chaku*	'Knife'.
(iii)	*ullu*	'Owl'.
(iv)	*bhalu*	'bear'.
(v)	*bazu*	'arm'
(vi)	*jadu*	'magic'

<div align="right">(Subzwari, 1982: 66, Platts, 2002: 24)</div>

Yet there is another category of nouns that are given masculine gender, they end in diphthong /aʊ / e.g.

(i)	*bhao*	'price'.	
(ii)	*chhirkao*	'sprinkling'.	
(iii)	bertao	'treatment'	
(iv)	bachao	'safe'	
(v)	lagao	'devotion'	(Platts, 2002: 24)

On the other hand, the feminine gender in most of Urdu nouns in identified by /i:/ front vowel e.g.

(i)	*larki*	'girl'
(ii)	*baiti*	'daughter'
(iii)	*roti*	'chapatti'
(iv)	*sabzi*	'vegetable'
(v)	*haddi*	'bone'
(vi)	*puphi*	'aunt'

<div align="right">(Makhdoom, 1952: 69; Subzwari, 1982: 66; Platts, 2002: 28)</div>

Some nouns ending in diphthong /ɪa / are also feminine e.g.

(i)	*guriya*	'doll'.
(ii)	*burhiya*	'an old woman'.
(iii)	*phuriya*	'a pimple'
(iv)	*chirya*	'sparrow'

(Danish, 1970: 15; Subzwari, 1982: 66; Platts 2002: 27)

As mentioned in the previous chapter that sometimes specific consonant ending is helpful to determine gender of a noun. Just as in Yamas, in Urdu also this criterion is applicable.

In Urdu, most of the nouns ending in 'r' consonant are masculine e.g.

(i)	*shehar*	'city'.
(ii)	*haar*	'necklace'
(iii)	*defter*	'Office'
(iv)	*akhbaar*	'Newspaper'
(v)	*sunaar*	'Goldsmith'

The third and the last system is morphological system. The detail of morphological system is given below:

3.4. Morphological System

The last gender assignment of morphological system is related to semantic and phonological system when we are unable to assign gender to noun according to semantic and phonological systems then we have to take into account the morphological system. Many nouns are assigned gender according to this system.

In Urdu it is a common rule that by removing the long vowel / a: / of a masculine and adding long vowel /i:/ it is changed into feminine (Makhdoom, 1952:

64; Danish, 1970: 21, Subzwari, 1982: 63; Schmidt, 2006: 01) as is shown in the table below:

Vowel Endings and Gender in Urdu

S.No.	Masculine		Feminine	
(i)	*larka*	'boy'	*larki*	'girl'
(ii)	*baita*	'son'	*baiti*	'daughter'
(iii)	*pota*	'grandson'	*poti*	'grand daughter'
(iv)	*phupha*	'uncle'	*phuphi*	*'aunti* '
(v)	*bakra*	'he goat'	*bakri*	'she goat'

In Urdu, some masculine nouns end in long vowel / iː/ and they represent the profession e.g. *maali,* 'gardener', *derzi,* 'tailor' etc. By removing this long vowel and by adding consonant '*n*' they are changed into feminine (Makhdom, 1952: 65; Danish, 1970: 22).

Vowel Endings of Professions in Urdu

S.No.	Masculine		Feminine	
(i)	*maali*	'gardener-he'	*maalen*	'gardener-she'
(ii)	*derzi*	'tailor-he'	*derzen*	'tailor-she'
(iii)	*dhobi*	'washerman'	*dhoben*	*'washerwoman* '
(iv)	*naai*	'hair dresser'	*naaen*	'hairdresser'
(v)	*bhakari*	'beggar'	*bhakaren*	'beggar woman'

There is another group of masculine nouns that end in a consonant '*n*', by adding long vowel / iː/ they are changed into feminine e.g.

Gender Assignment to Words Endings with /n/

S.No.	Masculine	Feminine
(i)	*pathaan*	pathaani
(ii)	*Brahman*	brahmani

Some masculine nouns that ends in /r/ and preceded by the long vowel / a: / are changed into feminine by adding 'ni' or *'en'*, as can be seen in the table below:

Gender Assignment in 'r' Endings Words

S.No.	Masculine		Feminine
(i)	*kumhaar*	'potter'	*kumhaaren*
(ii)	*lohaar*	'blacksmith'	*lohaaren*
(iii)	*sunaar*	'gold smith'	*sunaaren*

Some abstract nouns of feminine are formed by dropping 'na' *of the* infinitive e.g.

(i)	*marna*	*mar*	'beating'
(ii)	*lootna*	loot	'plunder'
(iii)	*ragarna*	*ragar*	'friction'
(iv)	*samajhna*	*samajh*	'understanding'

(Platts, 2002: 29)

There is yet another category of feminine nouns which are formed by replacing long vowel / a: / by / i: / vowel. Remember that these nouns have large-sized- counterparts. For illustration see the table below:

Nouns in Urdu having large sized counterparts

S.No.	Masculine		Feminine	
(i)	*hathroa*	'hammer'	*hathori*	'small hammer'
(ii)	*sandukcha*	'box'	*sandukchi*	'small bag'
(iii)	*Chamcha*	'table spoon'	*chamchi*	'tea spoon'

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We see that generally feminine is formed from the masculine but sometimes masculine is formed from the feminine e.g. *bhansa* 'bull' from *bhans* 'buffalo'.

(Danish, 1970: 33)

We have discussed in the previous chapter that sometimes affixes indicate gender of a noun in German. In the same manner, in Urdu abstract nouns that end in the suffixes *-hat* or *-wat* are feminine and these are preceded by the long vowel / a: / e.g.

(i)	*ghabrahat*	'perturbation.
(ii)	*thakawat*	'tiredness.
(iii)	*benawat*	'affectation.
(iv)	*sajawat*	'decoration
(v)	*rukawat*	'obstacle'

(Platts, 2002: 28, Schmidt, 2006: 05).

On the other hand, there is a category of masculine nouns, which end in suffix *'Pan'* e.g.

(i)	*dewanapan*	'madness.
(ii)	*bechpan*	'childhood.
(iii)	*larakpan*	'boyhood'
(iv)	*niyapan*	'newness'
(v)	*bholpan*	'innocence'

(Subzwari, 1982: 66; Platts, 2002: 25; Schmidt, 2006: 04).

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As in German, the assignment of gender in compound nouns is based on its last constituent, in Urdu also this rule works. If both constituents are masculine then it is assigned masculine gender e.g. *kaar - o - bar,* 'business' is masculine and if both constituents are feminine then it is given feminine gender e.g. *cheekh – o – pukaar,* 'hue and cry' is feminine. Similarly if one is masculine and the last is feminine then the compound will be given feminine gender e.g. q*alam – o – dawaat* , 'Pen and Inkpot', it is feminine. Similarly if one is feminine and the last noun is masculine then it will be assigned masculine gender e.g. *namaaz – o – rozaa,* 'prayer and fasting' is masculine

(Subzwari, 1982: 70; Platts, 2002: 30).

3.5   Loanwords in Urdu

In the beginning of this chapter, it is mentioned that Urdu like other languages has borrowed a large number of words from other languages. This perhaps does not seem to be an extraordinary phenomenon because borrowing is universal. However, what is interesting is that the borrowed words are also assigned gender according to Urdu rules regardless of the fact they had a gender or not in the language from which they originated. The gender assignment to the borrowed words is discussed below briefly to get a feel of how gender assignment in Urdu works. A separate chapter is devoted to English loan words.

3.5.1   Arabic Loanwords

Urdu has a lot of Arabic loanwords. The assignment of gender to Arabic loanwords is mentioned below.

Arabic verbal nouns of the measure ☎Ω◢ '*ifaal*' in which there are two alifs and they are present as the first and fourth letters of the word are masculine e.g.

(i)	*Ikbaal*	'kindness'
(ii)	*Ikraar*	'avowal'

Similarly, Arabic verbal nouns of the measure *taaful* in which the first letter is constant and there is tashdid at the third letter, those nouns are masculine e.g.

(i)	*taraddud*	'vacillation'
(ii)	*takabbu*	'haughtiness'

Arabic verbal nouns of the measure '*taffaul*' in which the first and the third letters are constant they are masculine e.g.

(i)	*tafawut*	'difference'
(ii)	*tadaruk*	'calling to account'

Arabic verbal nouns of the measure *infial* in which the first, second and fifth letters are servile and constant are masculine e.g.

(i)	*Insiram*	'ending'
(ii)	*Infisal*	'decision'

Arabic verbal nouns of the measure *iftiaal* in which the first, third and fifth letter are servile and constant are masculine e.g.

(i)	*Ikhtisaar*	'abridgement'
(ii)	*Iltimaas*	'petition'

Arabic verbal nouns of the measure '*Istifaal*' in which the first three letters are servile and characteristic and the sixth letter is also servile are masculine e.g.

(i)	*Istigfaar*	'begging, forgiveness'
(ii)	*Istimaal*	'use'

Arabic verbal nouns of place and time of the measures '*mafal*' and 'mafil' in which the first letter is peculiar are masculine e.g.

(i)	*makaam*	'habitation'
(ii)	*makaan*	'dwelling place'

Arabic nomina instrumenti of the measure '*mifal*' in which the first letter is characteristic, are masculine e.g.

(i)	*mimbar*	'a pulpit'
(ii)	*miskal,*	'a furbishing instrument'

(Platts, 2002: 25 to 27)

Arabic nouns ending in ات '*at*' written in Urdu are feminine e.g.

(i)	*muhabat*	'love'

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(ii)	*izzat*	'respect'
(iii)	*terbiat*	'training' etc.

<div align="right">(Subzwari 1982: 67)</div>

Arabic verbal nouns of measure *tafeel* in which the first and fourth letters are constant are feminine e.g.

(i)	*targhib*	exciting desire
(ii)	*taskeen*	satisfaction

Arabic nomina instrumenti of the measure *mifaal* in which the first and fourth letters are constant are feminine e.g.

(i)	*minkaar*	'a birds beak'
(ii)	*mizaan*	'a balance'

<div align="right">(Platts, 2002: 29)</div>

Arabic words that consist of three alphabets and ends in long vowel /a: / are feminine e.g.

(i)	*khatta*	'mistake'
(ii)	*waffa*	'faithfulness'
(iii)	*bakka*	'survival'
(iv)	*razza*	'will'
(v)	*adda*	'style/gesture'

<div align="right">(Makhdoom 1952: 69; Danish, 1970: 15, Subzwari, 1986: 67)</div>

3.5.2 Persian Loanwords

In Urdu Persian abstract nouns ending in long vowel / i; / are feminine e.g.

(i)	*dosti*	'friendship'

Similarly, abstract nouns that end in – *gi suffix* are also feminine e.g.

(i)	*zindagi*	'life'
(ii)	*bandagi*	

In addition to this nouns ending in suffix - *gah* are also feminine e.g.

(i)	*ibadat gah*	'place of worship'
(ii)	*rehaish gah*	'place of living'

On the other hand the nouns ending in suffix – i*stan or – stan are* masculine e.g.

(i)	*Pakistan*	'name of country'.
(ii)	*ragistan*	'desert'.

(Schmidt, 2004: 04)

In Urdu Persian loanwords ending in – *ish* suffix are feminine.

(i)	*danish*	'wisdom.
(ii)	*nalish*	'complaint.

(Platts, 2002: 28)

3.6 Conclusion

This chapter has shown that the assignment of gender in Urdu is not a simple phenomenon. This chapter has discussed elaborately how gender is assigned in Urdu. It is argued that for the assignment of gender in Urdu, two kinds of information namely the meaning and the form about a noun are important. It is observed that in some cases gender can be assigned by merely knowing the meaning. However, every time the process is not so simple; hence, it is vital to take into account the phonological and morphological aspects as well. While discussing the systems of assigning gender in Urdu, it is observed that there are exceptions in almost all the gender-assigning systems; nonetheless, sometimes one or the other reason justifies them. The chapter has revealed that there are different aspects that are to be taken into account for gender assignment in Urdu. These aspects include word ending, infixes etc.

As Urdu is a mixture of different languages; therefore, gender assignment rules of Arabic and Persian loanwords have also been discussed briefly. Nevertheless,

at the same time we cannot deny the fact that language is not a static phenomenon and is receptive to various changes from time to time. English is one of the European languages that have influenced Urdu to a great extent. Consequently, Urdu has derived many loanwords from English to enhance it vocabulary especially in the field of science and technology. For the reason, the gender assignment system of English loanwords will thoroughly be discussed in the next chapter.

CHAPTER FOUR

Gender Assignment to English Loanwords

4.1 Introduction

This chapter will focus on determining how Urdu assigns gender to loanwords of English. As mentioned in the previous chapter that Urdu evolved as a mixture of different languages. Therefore, when we discuss Urdu Grammar, we have to take into account the words of these languages also. At the same time, we also know that language changes with the passage of time. Different social, political, historical events have their impact on language. Same is the case with Urdu. After the establishment of East India Company, in the sub-continent and having close contact with the Britishers, English words also added into the vocabulary of Urdu. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan's (1817-08) writings are proof of this (Meraj, 1989: 221).

After the creation of Pakistan, this process of borrowing did not stop. It continues. Now the present situation is quite different. English has become the language of commerce, trade, and economy and we cannot deny its importance.

Many English loanwords have become part of Urdu. Now the question arises, how we assign gender to these words. In the previous chapter different systems for assigning gender have been discussed. We would apply these systems one by one and come to know, how far these systems are applicable to English loanwords.

4.2. Semantic System

As mentioned in the previous chapter that all common and proper nouns that are used for males are masculine and those that are used for females are feminine. Similarly, in English loanwords also sometimes biological or natural gender of a noun expresses the gender. Just like Urdu, the words for masculine and feminine are totally different.

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S.No	Masculine	Feminine
(i)	Father	Mother
(ii)	Brother	Sister
(iii)	Uncle	Auntie
(iv)	Ram	Ewe
(v)	Cock	Hen

Like Urdu, there are some English loanwords, which are used as masculine e.g.

    (i)   Hawker

    (ii)   Guard

    (iii)   Plumber

    (iv)   Jeweller

    (v)   Labourer

    (vi)   Loader

As mentioned earlier, there are some qualities, which are attributed to males. Similarly, there are some professions, which only males can adopt. So when above motioned nouns are used, mostly these are used as masculine.

On the other hand, there are some English loanwords, which are used as feminine e.g.

    (i)   Fairy

    (ii)   Nurse

    (iii)   Doll

    (iv)   Cat

    (v)   Fish

The above-mentioned nouns are considered feminine because of their qualities. Those are delicacy, beauty and care giving.

In addition to this, there are some English loanwords which are used for both males and females e.g.

(i)   Client
(ii)   Patient
(iii)   Member
(iv)   Student
(v)   Artist
(vi)   Scholar
(vii)   Tourist
(viii) Teacher
(ix)   Anchor
(x)   Writer
(xi)   Singer
(xii)   Cousin

In the previous chapter, we have seen that criterion of concept association is applicable to some nouns of Urdu. Similarly, this criterion is also useful to loanwords of English. English loanwords that express the same idea, concept or object existing already in Urdu will be assigned the same gender. Continent in Urdu is masculine, so the names of all continents in Urdu borrowed from English are masculine e.g.

(i)   Asia
(ii)   Europe
(iii)   South America
(iv)   North America
(v)   Antarctica
(vi)   Australia
(vii)   Africa   etc.

Country is masculine in Urdu so the English borrowed names of all countries are masculine e.g.

     (i)   Australia

     (ii)   Sri Lanka

     (iii)   Germany

     (iv)   Thailand

     (v)   West Indies

     (vi)   Hong Kong

     (vii)   Turkey

     (viii) Iran

Similarly, city is masculine in Urdu so the names of cities borrowed from English are masculine e.g.

     (i)   Boston

     (ii)   Cairo

     (iii)   Frankfurt

     (iv)   Copenhagen

     (v)   Auckland

     (vi)   London

     (vii)   Moscow

     (viii) Paris etc

Mountain, sea, and river are masculine in Urdu so the names of most of the mountains, sea, and rivers borrowed from English are assigned masculine gender e.g.

     (i)   K 2

     (ii)   Nanga Parbat

     (iii)   Black Sea

     (iv)   Arabian Sea

     (v)   Ganges River

     (vi)   Lena River

     (vii)   Angara River

     (viii) Thames River

Planet is masculine so the borrowed names of all planets are masculine but the exception is earth because earth is feminine in Urdu.

(i)   Mercury
(ii)   Venus
(iii) Mars
(iv)   Jupiter
(v)   Saturn
(vi)   Uranus
(vii) Pluto
(viii) Neptune   etc.

Metal is masculine in Urdu, so the names of metals borrowed from English are assigned masculine gender e.g.

(i)   Tin
(ii)   Iron
(iii) Gold
(iv)   Copper

There is also an exception here silver is given feminine gender because in Urdu it is feminine.

Month is masculine in Urdu so the names of all months are masculine borrowed from English.

(i)   January
(ii)   February
(iii) March
(iv)   April
(v)   May
(vi)   June
(vii) July

(viii) August

(ix) September

(x) October

(xi) November

(xii) December

Day is masculine in Urdu so the days of a week are also masculine.

(i) Friday

(ii) Saturday

(iii) Sunday

(iv) Monday

(v) Tuesday

(vi) Wednesday

(vii) Thursday

There are other examples of most of the nouns, which are assigned gender according to this concept association. We can give the example of language also. Language is feminine in Urdu so the names of languages borrowed from English are allocated feminine gender e.g.

(i) French

(ii) Arabic

(iii) German

(iv) Hungarian

(v) Chinese

(vi) Persian etc

Wind is feminine in Urdu so gas is also feminine. Due to this reason, different gases are given feminine gender e.g.

(i) Oxygen

(ii) Nitrogen

- (iii)   Hydrogen
- (iv)   Carbon Dioxide
- (v)   Chlorine

Examples of some more nouns are given below which are common and are assigned gender on the basis of Urdu.

Borrowed word	Gender	Equivalent Native word
Fashion	Masculine	revaaj
Number	M	adad
Glass	M	piyala, ketoraa
Jug	M	gharaa, matkaa
Sector	M	illaka
Letter	M	khat
Mood	M	mizaj
Muffler	M	dupatta
School	M	madrassa
Station	M	adda
Weather	M	mosum
Room	M	kumra
Bag	M	thaela or busta
License	M	ijazet namaa

Borrowed word	Gender	Equivalent Native word
Meeting	Feminine	majlis
Class	F	jemaat
Picture	F	tasveer
Street	F	gali
Light	F	roshni
Coffee	F	kafi
Jeans	F	shalwar
Shirt	F	kameez

Car	F	*gaari*
Plate	F	*thali*
Bullet	F	*goli*
Chair	F	*kursi*

'Soap' is masculine in Urdu so different types of soaps are given English names and they are also assigned masculine gender e.g.

      (i)   Lux

      (ii)   Capri

      (iii)   Rexona

      (iv)   Safe guard

      (v)   Royal

      (vi)   Imperial lather etc

Powder is masculine in Urdu so different types of powders are also assigned the same gender.

      (i)   Face powder

      (ii)   Washing powder

      (iii)   Prickly heat powder

      (iv)   Baking powder   etc

Cream is feminine in Urdu, likewise different kinds of cream are also have the same gender e.g.

      (i)   Fruit cream

      (ii)   Shaving cream

      (iii)   Moisturizing cream

      (iv)   Vanishing cream

      (v)   Cold cream

      (vi)   Ice – cream

There are a lot of other examples of nouns, which we daily use and assign gender according to this criterion.

As mentioned earlier that due to the advancement and progress in science, technology, commerce many scientific words are adding into the vocabulary of Urdu. Mostly these words are allocated masculine gender e.g.

(i)	Heater	Nawa-e-waqt	14/12/2008
(ii)	Generator	Nawa-e-waqt	15/12/2008
(iii)	Rocket	Nawa-e-waqt	26/12/2008
(iv)	Radio	Jinnah	27/12/2008
(v)	Mobile	Jinnah	27/12/2008
(vi)	Atom bomb		
(vii)	Computer		
(viii)	Television		
(ix)	Telephone		
(x)	Engine		
(xi)	Injection		
(xii)	Camera		
(xiii)	Thermos		
(xiv)	Aero plane		
(xv)	Grinder		
(xvi)	Laptop		
(xvii)	Missile		
(xviii)	Microscope		
(xix)	Iron		
(xx)	Stethoscope		

However, there are some scientific nouns, which are given feminine gender e.g.

(i) Machine

(ii) E-mail

(iii)	Coach
(iv)	Floppy
(v)	C-D

There are most of the nouns which are left and which are not assigned gender according to this system. Thus, we have to consider the next gender assignment system that is phonological system for assigning gender

4.3.   Phonological System

This system is widely used for the assignment of gender to English loanwords as well. Sometimes just on the basis of phonology the noun is assigned gender.

Just like Urdu, most of the English loanwords that end in long vowel / a: / are masculine e.g.

(i)	Visa	Jinnah	27/12/2008
(ii)	Media	Jinnah	24/12/2008
(iii)	Plaza	Nawa-e-waqt	30/12/2008
(iv)	Drama	Nawa-e-waqt	31/12/2008
(v)	Propoganda	Nawa-e-waqt	29/12/2008
(vi)	Agenda	Jinnah	27/12/2008
(vii)	Cinema	Jinnah	30/12/2008
(viii)	Pizza		
(ix)	Banana		
(x)	Vanilla		
(xi)	Guava		
(xii)	Soda		
(xiii)	Sofa		
(xiv)	Zebra		

There is another category of English loanwords that end in the long vowel /u:/; these are mostly masculine e.g.

(i)   Shampoo

(ii)   Bamboo

(iii)   Statue

(iv)   Kangaroo

(v)   Taboo

(vi)   Screw

(vii)   Menu

(viii) Zoo

There is an exception to this rule; the English loanwords glue is feminine because its equivalent in Urdu is feminine.

On the other hand, most of the feminine English loanwords end in / i: / front vowel e.g.

(i)   Lorrey

(ii)   Agency

(iii)   Copy

(iv)   Movie

(v)   Trophee

(vi)   Degree

(vii)   Floppy

(viii) Library

This criterion is applicable to most of the other things also.

(i)   Coffee

(ii)   Tea

(iii)   Jelly

(iv)   Toffee

(v)   Cherry

(vi)   Strawberry

(vii)   Pastry

(viii) Candy

(ix)   Cookie (M)

(x)   Patty   (M)

Cookie and patty are given masculine gender because cookie is a kind of biscuit, it is masculine in Urdu and patty is a type of samosa, it is also masculine in Urdu.

Different subjects ending with /i: / front vowel are also considered as feminine e.g.

(i)   Biology

(ii)   Anatomy

(iii)   Philosophy

(iv)   Psychology

(v)   Ecology

(vi)   Geology

(vii)   Archeology

(viii)   History

(ix)   Geography

(x)   astronomy

(xi)   Philology

(xii)   Phonology

Systems of government that are frequently used in our Urdu newspaper are also given feminine gender e.g.

(i)	Democracy	Nawa-e-waqt	29/12/2008
(ii)	Bureaucracy	Jinnah	25/12/2008
(iii)	Aristocracy		

Some more examples of nouns ending with /i: / are given below which belong to different fields of life and which are commonly used in our Urdu newspapers and are feminine.

(i)	Security	Nawa-e-waqt	29/12/2008
(ii)	Committee	Nawa-e-waqt	30/12/2008
(iii)	Strategy	Nawa-e-waqt	30/12/2008
(iv)	Guarantee	Nawa-e-waqt	30/12/2008
(v)	Academy	Nawa-e-waqt	30/12/2008
(vi)	Victory	Nawa-e-waqt	30/12/2008
(vii)	Assembly	Nawa-e-waqt	31/12/2008
(viii)	Policy	Nawa-e-waqt	28/12/2008
(ix)	Community	Nawa-e-waqt	20/12/2008
(x)	Emergency	Nawa-e-waqt	15/12/2008
(xi)	Property	Jinnah	22/12/2008
(xii)	Surgery	Jinnah	31/12/2008
(xiii)	Economy	Jinnah	31/12/2008
(xiv)	Industry	Jinnah	31/12/2008
(xv)	Lobby	Jinnah	31/12/2008
(xvi)	Energy	Jinnah	31/12/2008
(xvii)	Company	Jinnah	31/12/2008
(xviii)	Technology	Jinnah	31/12/2008
(xix)	Society	Jinnah	31/12/2008
(xx)	Faculty	Jinnah	31/12/2008
(xxi)	University	Jinnah	25/12/2008
(xxii)	Military	Jinnah	23/12/2008
(xxiii)	Currency	Jinnah	23/12/2008
(xxiv)	Party	Jinnah	30/12/2008
(xxv)	Dictionary	Jinnah	30/12/2008
(xxvi)	Laboratory	Jinnah	30/12/2008
(xxvii)	Authority	Jinnah	26/12/2008
(xxviii)	Inquiry	Jinnah	26/12/2008
(xxix)	Navy	Jinnah	27/12/2008
(xxx)	Factory	Jinnah	27/12/2008
(xxxi)	Army	Pakistan	15/12/2008
(xxxii)	Battery	Jang	27/07/2008
(xxxiii)	Biotechnology	Jang	02/04/2009

(xxxiv) Colony	Jang	27/07/2008
(xxxv) Cutlery	Jang	10/04/2009
(xxxvi) Documentary	Jang	07/04/2009

As mentioned in the previous chapter that sometimes some specific consonant ending is helpful in order to determine the gender of a noun. In English loanwords, the consonant /r/ is very important. Most of the nouns that end in this consonant are masculine. Different examples are given below in favour of this rule.

Most of the English loanwords ending with /r/ represent the profession. Earlier these specific nouns were mostly used for masculine but now these nouns are used for both males as well as females. These nouns have been sort out from different Urdu newspapers.

(i)	Programme anchor	Nawa-e-waqt	16/12/2008
(ii)	Social worker	Nawa-e-waqt	16/12/2008
(iii)	Information Minister	Nawa-e-waqt	16/12/2008
(iv)	Producer	Nawa-e-waqt	16/12/2008
(v)	Dress Designer	Nawa-e-waqt	16/12/2008
(vi)	Democratic Senator	Nawa-e-waqt	16/12/2008
(vii)	Dictator	Nawa-e-waqt	16/12/2008
(viii)	Smuggler	Nawa-e-waqt	16/12/2008
(ix)	Foot baler	Nawa-e-waqt	17/12/2008
(x)	Singer	Nawa-e-waqt	17/12/2008
(xi)	Composer	Nawa-e-waqt	17/12/2008
(xii)	Cultural reporter	Nawa-e-waqt	17/12/2008
(xiii)	Contractor	Nawa-e-waqt	14/12/2008
(xiv)	Food controller	Nawa-e-waqt	14/12/2008
(xv)	Managing director	Nawa-e-waqt	15/12/2008
(xvi)	Governor	Nawa-e-waqt	15/12/2008
(xvii)	Chief editor	Nawa-e-waqt	15/12/2008
(xviii)	Vice chancellor	Nawa-e-waqt	15/12/2008
(xix)	Driver	Nawa-e-waqt	15/12/2008

(xx)	Fire fighter	Nawa-e-waqt	15/12/2008
(xxi)	Ambassador	Jinnah	30/12/2008
(xxii)	Doctor	Jinnah	30/12/2008
(xxiii)	Conductor	Jinnah	30/12/2008
(xxiv)	Player	Jinnah	30/12/2008
(xxv)	Chief advisor	Jinnah	23/12/2008
(xxvi)	Leader	Jinnah	31/12/2008
(xxvii)	Voter	Jinnah	31/12/2008
(xxviii)	Manager	Jinnah	31/12/2008
(xxix)	Scholar	Jinnah	31/12/2008
(xxx)	Inspector	Nawa-e-waqt	28/12/2008
(xxxi)	Civil dictator	Nawa-e-waqt	29/12/2008
(xxxii)	Professor	Nawa-e-waqt	29/12/2008
(xxxiii)	Distributor	Pakistan	29/12/2008
(xxxiv)	Data entry operator	Jang	05/04/2009
(xxxv)	Interior decorator	Jang	14/04/2009
(xxxvi)	Instructor	Jang	10/04/2009
(xxxvii)	I.T Lecturer	Jang	10/04/2009
(xxxviii)	Exporter	Jang	10/04/2009
(xxxix)	Finance officer	Jang	05/04/2009

Most of the scientific words ending with 'r' are also given masculine gender e.g.

(i)	Heater	Nawa-e-waqt	14/12/2008
(ii)	Geyser	Nawa-e-waqt	14/12/2008
(iii)	Generator	Nawa-e-waqt	15/12/2008
(iv)	Printer	Jinnah	31/12/2008
(v)	Computer	Jinnah	31/12/2008
(vi)	Gas heater	Jinnah	25/12/2008
(vii)	Transformer	Jinnah	25/12/2008
(viii)	Gas cylinder	Nawa-e-waqt	28/12/2008
(ix)	Helicopter	Nawa-e-waqt	30/12/2008
(x)	Tractor	Jinnah	31/12/2008

| (xi) | Car | Nawa-e-waqt | 29/12/2008 |

In the above-mentioned examples car is feminine because in Urdu its equivalent is *gaari* that is feminine due to its phonological ending.

Most of the English loanwords related to stationery ending with /r/ are also given masculine gender e.g.

(i)   Rubber

(ii)   Sharpener

(iii)   Ink remover

(iv)   Register

(v)   Marker

(vi)   Ruler

(vii)   Paper

(viii) Plastic cover

(ix)   Sticker

(x)   Poster etc.

Some English loanwords ending with /r/ are also frequently used in our Urdu newspapers and they are mostly given masculine gender.

(i)	Star	Nawa-e-waqt	14/12/2008
(ii)	Science corner	Nawa-e-waqt	14/12/2008
(iii)	Seminar	Nawa-e-waqt	14/12/2008
(iv)	Container	Nawa-e-waqt	14/12/2008
(v)	Tower	Nawa-e-waqt	14/12/2008
(vi)	Oil tanker	Nawa-e-waqt	15/12/2008
(vii)	Guess paper	Jinnah	30/12/2008
(viii)	Theatre	Jinnah	30/12/2008
(ix)	Culture	Jinnah	30/12/2008
(x)	Bond number	Jinnah	30/12/2008
(xi)	Banner	Jinnah	31/12/2008
(xii)	Calendar	Nawa-e-waqt	31/12/2008

(xiii)	Beauty parlor	Jang	12/04/2009
(xiv)	Elevator	Jang	08/04/2009
(xv)	Easter	Jang	13/04/2009
(xvi)	Loud speaker	Jinnah	20/12/2008
(xvii)	Pillar	Jinnah	23/12/2008

Most of the nouns are assigned gender according to semantic or phonological system. However, there is a third and last system i-e morphological system. The rest of the nouns are allocated gender according to this system.

4.4.   Morphological System

In semantic and phonological system, the rules for single nouns gender assignment are discussed. If we notice, we will come to know that we do not borrow only single nouns; nevertheless, compound nouns are also borrowed. In compound nouns there are three main categories. In first category, I place those entire English loanwords in which both constituents are of English. In second category, the words are assembled in a fashion that the first constituent takes English component while the second constituent is of Urdu. The third category is of those compound nouns is the reversal of the second category that means the first component is taken from Urdu and the second from English.

It is argued that whatever the category of compound noun the gender assignment depends on the last constituent of a compound noun of English loanwords as observed in Urdu gender assignment. If it is masculine, the compound noun is masculine, and if it is feminine then the compound noun will be assigned feminine gender.

Examples of each category are given below.

4.4.1   Category-I

As mentioned earlier in this category both constituents are of English e.g. compound nouns with 'room' room is masculine in Urdu because of its phonological

ending so all the compound nouns in which the second noun is room are assigned masculine gender e.g.

    (a)   Waiting room

    (b)   Guest room

    (c)   Drawing room

    (d)   Study room

    (e)   Dining room

    (f)   Bed room

    (g)   Conference room

    (h)   Lecture room

    (i)   Staff room

    (j)   X-ray room

    (k)   Examination room

    (l)   Class room

    (m)   Show room

Compound nouns with 'house' are also masculine e.g.

(a)	President House	Jinnah	31/12/2008
(b)	Guest house	Jinnah	31/12/2008
(c)	Farm house	Jinnah	27/12/2008
(d)	White house	Jinanh	27/12/2008
(e)	Fountain house	Nawa-e-waqt	14/12/2008
(f)	Governor house	Nawa-e-waqt	16/12/2008
(g)	Parliament house	Nawa-e-waqt	17/12/2008
(h)	Circuit house	Jang	15/04/2009
(i)	Slaughter house		
(j)	Rest house		

'System' is masculine in Urdu so the compound nouns with system are also assigned masculine gender e.g.

(a)	Lock system	Jinnah	26/12/2008

(b)	Check system	Nawa-e-waqt	20/12/2008
(c)	Passport system	Nawa-e-waqt	16/12/2008
(d)	Finger print system	Pakistan	20/12/2008

'Centre' is masculine, likewise the compound nouns in which the last constituent is 'centre' is allocated masculine gender e.g.

(a)	Emergency centre	Jang	08/04/2009
(b)	Community centre	Jang	08/04/2009
(c)	Health centre	Jinnah	20/12/2008
(d)	First aid centre	Jang	08/04/2009
(e)	Career coaching center	Jinnah	27/12/2008
(f)	Training centre		
(g)	Shopping centre		
(h)	Rescue centre		
(i)	Music centre		
(j)	Islamic centre		
(k)	Immigration centre		

In addition to this, there is another sub category of compound nouns with 'station' constituent. The same rule is applicable here too. As 'station' is masculine so the compound nouns having 'station' as last constituent are considered masculine e.g.

(a)	Polling station	Nawa-e-waqt	29/12/2008
(b)	Police station	Nawa-e-waqt	29/12/2008
(c)	Railway station	Nawa-e-waqt	30/12/2008
(d)	Power station	Jinnah	27/12/2008
(e)	Radio station		
(f)	CNG Station etc		

The last sub category of English loan compounds is with 'Board' constituent. In Urdu 'board' is given masculine gender that is why the compound nouns with last constituent Board are also considered masculine e.g.

(a)	Sign board	Jinnah	24/12/2008

(b)	Cricket board	Jinanh	24/12/2008
(c)	Cantonment board	Jinnah	23/12/2008
(d)	Sensor board	Nawa-e-waqt	27/12/2008
(e)	Executive board	Jang	10/04/2009
(f)	Sports board		
(g)	Promotion board		

Furthermore, there are a lot of English loan compounds in which the second constituent is feminine so mostly the compounds nouns with this constituent are given the same gender as illustrated below:

Compound nouns with 'machine' constituent are mostly considered feminine e.g.

(a)   Photo Stat machine

(b)   Sewing machine

(c)   Washing machine

(d)   X-ray machine

(e)   Telepathy machine

(f)   Weighing machine

Compound nouns with 'Policy' are also feminine e.g.

(a)	Visa Policy		
(b)	Tax Policy		
(c)	Party Policy		
(d)	Rotation Policy		
(e)	Petroleum Policy		
(f)	Health Policy	Jang	08/04/2009

Compound nouns with 'committee' have feminine gender.

(a)	Action committee	Jinnah	26/12/2008
(b)	Advisory committee	Jang	01/04/2009
(c)	Defence committee	Jang	09/04/2009

(d)	Executive committee	Jinnah	27/12/2008
(e)	Finance committee	Nawa-e-waqt	17/12/2008
(f)	Market committee		
(g)	Price control committee		
(h)	Public Account committee		

Compound nouns ending with the word 'company' (as the second or last constituent) are also feminine because 'company' is feminine in Urdu e.g.

(a)	Transport Company	Nawa-e-waqt	16/12/2008
(b)	Mobile Company	Nawa-e-waqt	16/12/2008
(c)	Entertainment Company	Jinanh	24/12/2008
(d)	Consultant Company	Jang	07/04/2009
(e)	Insurance Company		
(f)	Power Company		

Similarly, compound nouns ending with team are also feminine e.g.

(a)	Hockey team	Nawa-e-waqt	17/12/2008
(b)	Cricket team	Nawa-e-waqt	17/12/2008
(c)	Inspection team	Jinanh	27/12/2008
(d)	Investigation team	Jinnah	30/12/2008
(e)	Football team	Jang	01/04/2009

Likewise, compound nouns with 'Market' are also considered feminine e.g.

(a)	Stock market	Jinnah	31/12/2008
(b)	Exchange market	jinnah	31/12/2008
(c)	Liberty market	Nawa-e-waqt	17/12/2008
(d)	Domestic market	Jang	02/04/2009
(e)	Open market		
(f)	Super market		

Mostly compound nouns with 'ship' are feminine e.g.

(a)	Championship	Nawa-e-waqt	16/12/2008
(b)	Partnership	Nawa-e-waqt	20/12/2008
(c)	Chairmen ship	Jinnah	31/12/2008
(d)	Leadership	Jinnah	27/12/2008
(e)	Scholarship	Nawa-e-waqt	29/12/2008

In the above-mentioned example, scholarship is an exception. It is masculine because its equivalent in Urdu is *wazeefa* that is masculine because of its phonological ending –aa.

Compound nouns having 'Agency' as second constituent are mostly granted feminine gender because of phonological ending of Agency on /i:/ sound e.g.

(a)	Intelligence Agency	Jang	10/04/2009
(b)	Travel Agency		
(c)	Security Agency		
(d)	Modeling Agency etc		

In the same way compound nouns with 'society' as the last constituent are allocated feminine gender e.g.

(a)	Housing society	Jinnah	22/12/2008
(b)	Cultural society	Pakistan	17/10/2008
(c)	Civil society	Pakistan	31/12/2008
(d)	Psychiatrist society		

The compound nouns with 'Scheme' are also assigned feminine gender e.g.

(a)	Food support scheme	Pakistan	20/12/2008
(b)	Housing scheme	Jinnah	20/12/2008
(c)	China scheme	Nawa-e-waqt	14/12/2008
(d)	Tractor scheme		

4.4.2   Category-II

In this category English compound noun consists of English and Urdu constituents. These compounds are also allocated gender according to the same rule i.e. the second constituent plays an important role and on the basis of second or last constituent we assign gender to English loan nouns. In favour of this rule very interesting and common example is given below.

(a)   Chicken *Tikka*

(b)   Chicken *Qourma*

In the above examples, chicken is masculine and the last constituents are *Tikka* and *Qourma*. *Tikka* and *Qouram* are masculine because of phonological ending –aa. So both these compounds are given masculine gender.

The rule becomes more obvious by giving the following example of compound nouns having the same first constituent and different second constituent.

(a)   Chicken *Biryani*

(b)   Chicken *Karahi*

As mentioned earlier that gender assignment of compound noun is based on the second or last constituent. In the above examples the first constituent is same that is masculine but the second constituents are different. *Biryani* and *Karahi* both end in /i:/ sound that is feminine so the compounds are considered feminine.

Some other examples of such type of compound nouns are given below:

(a)	Gym	*Khana*	Nawa-e-waqt	28/12/2008
(b)	Bumper	*Saal*	Nawa-e-waqt	20/12/2009
(c)	Corrupt	*Ahalkar*	Jinnah	23/12/2008
(d)	Carry	*Debba*	Nawa-e-waqt	15/12/2008
(e)	Corrupt	*Anasir*	Nawa-e-waqt	15/12/2008
(f)	Global	*Mazheb*	Nawa-e-waqt	14/12/2008
(g)	Intelligence	*Sarbarah*		
(h)	Monitoring	*Nizaam*		

(i)	Senior	*Rehnuma*
(j)	Security	*Muhaida*
(k)	Traffic	*Hadsa*

The above-mentioned compound nouns are masculine because of the last constituent.

Some examples of feminine compounds are also provided here.

(a)	Bullet proof	*gari*	Jang	01/04/2009
(b)	Contract	*asami*	Nawa-e-waqt	17/12/2008
(c)	Double	*sawari*	Nawa-e-waqt	30/12/2008
(d)	Vaccination	*mohim*		

4.4.3 Category-III

This is the last category of compound nouns. In such compound nouns, the first constituent is of Urdu and the second or the last constituent is of English. In these nouns, also gender allocation is based on the last constituent. Some examples of these nouns are given below.

The following compound nouns are supposed masculine because the last constituent is masculine e.g.

(a)	*parlimani* leader
(b)	*imdadi* match
(c)	*iftatahi* account
(d)	*munafa* account
(e)	*perchi* system
(f)	*vazir-e-azam* House

Likewise, some examples of feminine compounds are given below.

(a)	*parlimani* committee

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(b)	*tehkiki* report		
(c)	*sasti – roti* scheme		
(d)	*samjhota* express		
(e)	*kaumi* movement		
(f)	*lota saz* factory		
(g)	*nan-bai* association		
(h)	*ghee* agency	Nawa-e-waqt	28/12/2008
(i)	*barudi* jacket	Jang	03/04/2009
(j)	*bachet* scheme	Jang	02/04/2009
(k)	*benalakwami* police	Jinnah	24/12/2008
(l)	*benalakwami* conference Jang		22/04/2008

English loanwords also form another category of nouns, which are used to represent rank or status. These nouns are used for both males and females. These nouns are frequently used in our Urdu newspapers. Examples are mentioned below:

(i)	Assistant Technician	Jinnah	26/12/2008
(ii)	Auditor General	Nawa-e-waqt	28/12/2008
(iii)	Attorney General	Nawa-e-waqt	30/12/2008
(iv)	Assistant Account Manager	Nawa-e-waqt	05/04/2009
(v)	Assistant Sub Inspector	Jang	08/04/2009
(vi)	Additional Session Judge	Jang	08/04/2009
(vii)	Additional Secretary	Jang	10/04/2009
(viii)	Chief Editor	Jinnah	27/12/2008
(ix)	Chief Inspector	Jinnah	27/12/2008
(x)	Chief Justice	Jinanh	30/12/2008
(xi)	Chief Advisor	Jinnah	23/12/2008
(xii)	Chief Secretary	Nawa-e-waqt	28/12/2008
(xiii)	Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Jang		15/04/2009
(xiv)	Director General	Jinnah	27/12/2008
(xv)	Deputy Commissioner	Jinnah	27/12/2008
(xvi)	Deputy Mayor	Jinnah	27/12/2008
(xvii)	Director Marketing	Jinnah	26/12/2008

(xviii)	Deputy Attorney General	Jinnah	30/12/2008
(xix)	Deputy Speaker	Jinnah	23/12/2008
(xx)	Drug Inspector	Jinnah	20/12/2008
(xxi)	Deputy Secretary	Nawa-e-waqt	30/12/2008
(xxii)	Deputy Political Secretary	Jang	10/04/2009
(xxiii)	Executive Engineer	Jang	02/04/2009
(xxiv)	Election Commissioner	Jang	09/04/2009
(xxv)	Food Inspector	Jinnah	24/12/2008
(xxvi)	Finance Officer	Jang	05/04/2009
(xxvii)	Farm Manager	Jang	12/04/2009
(xxviii)	General Secretary	Jang	04/04/2009
(xxix)	General Manager	Jang	13/04/2009
(xxx)	High Commissioner	Jinnah	23/12/2008
(xxxi)	Joint Secretary	Jang	09/04/2009
(xxxii)	Major General		
(xxxiii)	Managing Director		
(xxxiv)	Medical Officer		
(xxxv)	Naval Chief		
(xxxvi)	Section Officer		
(xxxvii)	Secretary Information		
(xxxviii)	Vice Chancellor		

4.5. Conclusion

In this chapter, different assignment systems of gender allocation to English loanwords have been applied and we come to know that mostly the rules and systems that we discussed in the previous chapter are applicable to English loanwords as well. As in Urdu, in semantic system the criterion of natural gender and concept association is used for gender allocation. This criterion is equally applicable to English loanwords. Most of the rules of phonological and morphological systems are also applicable to English loanwords as well. Another important point that comes after applying different rules is if a loanword expresses already existing idea, concept or object then it will be mostly given the gender of native language. Hence, gender

allocation to loanwords is not a haphazard process. It is based on a system and rules and we have to keep in mind those systems and rules while assigning gender to a loanword.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION

In this study, the gender assignment phenomenon in Urdu has been investigated. The study started off with looking into how gender is assigned in various languages of the world. The investigation revealed that in addition to two major criteria for assigning gender to nouns in different language a number of other notions or concepts are also used in determining which noun should go to which category.

The study showed that gender assignment is a universal phenomenon and majority of the world languages have a gender system. The languages vary with regard to the gender system. Some languages have a simple gender system while other languages have a very complex gender system. The range varies between two genders (i.e. masculine and feminine) to more complex gender system.

Urdu falls in the category of languages where categories other than noun i.e. adjectives, possessive pronouns, and verbs also agree with the noun in gender apart from number and person.

It has been found that other related languages like Arabic and Persian even in gender assignment influence Urdu, which is believed to be a mixture of many languages. First of all, Urdu, like many other languages of the world, employs two main criteria for assigning gender to nouns i.e. semantic and formal. The semantic of the noun play an important role in deciding how gender will be assigned to a noun. In this criterion the nouns are classified into different subcategories according to different criterion. For instance one criterion as used in Diyari is of sex in Urdu also. We saw that nouns are assigned masculine or feminine gender according to sex. In this case masculine and feminine have separate words e.g. *badshah, malkaa, baap, maan* etc. In typological survey of languages we have found that sometimes beliefs, ideas, mythology is also used as the basis for gender allocation. Similarly in Urdu some nouns are allocated gender according to religion. In Islam man is superior to a

woman so mostly heavenly bodies and noble creatures are given masculine gender e.g. *nabi, farishta*. We have dug out that sometimes some specific quality is used as a criterion for gender allocation as in Archi, Rikvani, Ngagi Kurrungurr, and Anindilyakwa. This criterion is also significant in Urdu gender assignment. Physical strength and toughness is associated with males so *pehalwan* and *daeu* are given masculine gender. Likewise care giving, delicacy, and harshness is related to females so *daii*, and *peri* are assigned female gender.

In addition to this criterion of concept association as used in Dyirbal is helpful to some nouns in Urdu also. Many examples of this criterion are provided. Exceptions are also given. They are justified by one or the other reason.

The criterion of size as used in Dizi, Halkomelm, and Archi also works in Urdu. Large, huge things are assigned masculine gender while small are allocated feminine gender e.g. *tokra, tokri, piyala, piyali*.

Furthermore science and technology is also one criterion for gender allocation. Mostly scientific inventions are given masculine gender e.g. *johar, adsaa* etc.

In terms of formal criteria, the word ending is very helpful in guiding the assignment process. For instance the nouns ending in lpng vowel /a:/, /u:/ and diphthong /a□/ are masculine e.g. *larka, bazu,* and *bachao* respectively. In contrast to this the words or nouns ending in the front vowel /i:/, /Ia/ are feminine e.g. *larki, burhiya* etc. In phonological criteria the consonant '/' is very important. Most of the nouns in Urdu ending /r/ consonant are allocated masculine gender e.g. *akhbaar, sunaar* etc.

The second category of formal criteria is morphological one. In it some nouns are changed into feminine by removing long vowel /a:/ and adding long vowel /i:/ e.g. *larka larki, bakra, bakri*.

There is another category of nouns in which long vowel /i:/ is replaced by consonant 'n'. these nouns are changed into feminine e.g. *maali, maalen, dhobi,*

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dhoben. Likewise some masculine nouns ending in consonant 'n' are changed into feminine by adding long vowel /i:/ e.g. *pathan, pathani* etc. Yet there is another category of feminine nouns which are formed by removing 'na' of the infinitive e.g. *mar* from *marna,* samjhana from samajh etc.

Affixes also have their role in gender assignment. In Urdu also abstract nouns end in suffixes *–hat* or *–wat* are feminine e.g. *ghabrahat, benawat.*

Lastly in case of compound nouns, the last constituent is important for gender's allocation point of view. If it is masculine compound noun is given masculine gender and if it is feminine then compound noun is given feminine gender e.g. *qalam –o –dawat, namaz –o –roza.*

We saw that semantic and phonological criteria are mostly used for gender allocation as compared to morphological in Urdu.

We applied gender assignment rules of Urdu to English loan words as well, and we came to know that most of these rules are fulfilled by English loanwords. Just as in Urdu, semantic, phonology, and morphology of a word plays a crucial in gender assignment, similarly in case of English loanwords, these are equally important for gender assignment.

In semantic criteria for instance we have seen that sometimes biological or natural gender of English loanwords express its gender and this word is totally different from masculine and feminine e.g. father, mother, cock, hen.

In case of Urdu semantic system, sometimes some specific quality is also used as the criterion of gender assignment. This criterion is applicable to most of English loanwords too e.g. hawker, loader and fairy, nurse.

The criterion of concept association used in Urdu is useful to English loanwords too. Besides these there are other criteria of semantic gender assignment of

Urdu and most of these are implemented to English loanwords and these too satisfy the rules.

The study also showed that in Urdu gender assignment system, phonology of a word cannot be neglected. The words ending with long vowel /a:/ are masculine and words ending with /i:/ are mostly feminine. This phonology rule is equally beneficial for English loanwords.

During this study an important point comes to the surface that most of the English loanwords end with a consonant 'r' and these words are given masculine gender. However just as in case of other rules there are exceptions too in this rule. For example mostly loanwords ending with 'r' consonant are masculine but 'car' is feminine, although it ends with 'r'. The reason is, its equivalent in Urdu is 'gaari' which is feminine because of its /i:/ ending.

In case of morphological criteria, the rule of assigning gender to compound nouns used in Urdu is extensively used to English loanwords. The gender allocation is based on last constituent of the compound noun e.g. waiting room is masculine and hockey team is feminine.

The research proved that all the three systems of gender assignment are used to English loanwords as well. Mostly semantic and phonological systems are used as compared to morphological system. We also noticed that if a loanword expresses the already existing idea, concept, or object of Urdu then mostly it is allocated the gender of Urdu. But if it expresses a new idea, concept, or object then we have to take into account the three systems one by one.

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