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Legal Language in Lahore High Court Verdicts: A Stylistic Analysis

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Abstract

This study conducts a stylistic analysis of the legal language employed in Lahore High Court verdicts. The primary aim of this research is to identify distinct stylistic features within legal language, with a specific focus on family and criminal reports. The research framework of the study has drawn inspiration from Geoffrey Leech's "A Linguistic Guide to English Poetry" (2014) and Mick Short's "Exploring the Language of Poems, Plays, and Prose" (2018). Both of these models offer a checklist of linguistic and stylistic categories. Lexical category and figures of speech are chosen for the peculiar analysis. The research is qualitative and descriptive in nature. Data for this study is collected from the official website of Lahore High Court through purposive sampling technique. Total four verdicts; two family cases and two criminal cases are taken into consideration. The study's findings reveal a pronounced use of nouns and metaphors in Lahore High Court verdicts, which significantly impact clarity, formality, precision, and communicative purposes in family and criminal law. Finally; this study recommends to implement training, guidelines, and awareness initiatives within the legal community to improve the precision, clarity, and objectivity of legal language.

INTRODUCTION

Legal language plays a pivotal role in shaping the administration of justice, as it serves as the primary means of communication within the judicial system. A clear, precise, and unambiguous language is essential to ensure that court decisions are understood and implemented accurately. In the context of Lahore High Court verdicts, the use of appropriate legal language holds immense significance, considering the court's prominent position in the judicial hierarchy of Pakistan.

A specialized form of language used within the legal system to express legal concepts, principles, and norms is known as legalese or legal language. The use of legal language places an emphasis on precision and accuracy. It conveys legal concepts and principles precisely by employing technical terminology and specialized vocabulary (Olson, 2003).

Wydick and Sloan (2005) said that Legal Language is a canny and fundamental asset for both yearning and experienced legitimate experts looking to upgrade their composed relational abilities. This survey looks at Wydick's extensive aide, which presents a powerful contention for the utilization of plain language in lawful composition. The book offers reasonable guidance and models, engaging attorneys to communicate complex lawful ideas in clear, curt and effectively justifiable terms.

In legal documents, precise language aids in establishing clarity and avoiding ambiguity. Lawful language is regularly formal and frequently consolidates old fashioned language structures. It might make use of old words, phrases, or syntax that are rooted in past linguistic practices (Cornu, 2007). In legal documents, language aids establish clarity and should avoid ambiguity. Lawful language is regularly formal and frequently consolidates old fashioned language structures. It might make use of old words, phrases, or syntax that are rooted in past linguistic practices (Tiersma, 2005). This intricacy can be credited to the requirement for lawful texts to envelop exact subtleties, special cases, and capabilities. Long sentences can be hard to understand and may need careful parsing to figure out what they mean (Gotti, 2013).

These particular terms and expressions frequently have exact lawful implications that might contrast from their normal utilization. Jargon is used in the legal field to provide clarity and precision, but it can be hard for people outside the field to understand. In its organization, legal language adheres to particular structures and conventions. The use of headings, subheadings, and numbered paragraphs, for example, are commonplace in legal documents to make them easier to read and understand (Solan & Tiersma, 2005). These formalized designs assist with keeping up with consistency and help in the recovery of legitimate data.

Tiersma (2008) is of the view that legal languages are necessarily outcome of the state, nation and history in which they are used. Furthermore, the particular developments of legal languages are in question. Legal languages are also categorized in terms of their features, e.g. complicated and long sentences, spelling differences, orthography and pronunciation, containing conjoined phrases, as well as large and distinct lexicon; passive and nominal construction. The language of law has been interpreted differently. Legal languages are also different in terms of their style. Legal languages are often formal, prehistoric and impersonal. These languages are varying according to their strategic objectives. Moreover, the language of law can be quite comprehensive, or relatively general or vague.

Style is a proper way by which people do anything in a manner or generally a proper way of doing something is style. Simply, in a way anything gives the impression is a style. The branch of Linguistics that studies style of literary texts of any genre is called stylistics. Literature offers different types of interesting writing that has their unique styles. As every writer mainly intends to make his work different from the others so for this purpose he/she uses different language than the ordinary one (Murtaza & Qasmi, 2013).

Stylistic is basically the branch of applied linguistics that deals with the distinctive styles that are found in literary texts. Stylistic analysis helps us to identify the distinctive feature of literary texts. Stylistic on the one hand raises questions regarding the relation between the way that language is used and its

apparent context and objective-language as an active element of real world. On the other hand, it seeks to define the particular use of linguistics structure to create facsimiles, models or distortions of the real world-literary language (Bradford, 2013).

Legal English has its own stylistic features comprising on different levels. This study aims to conduct a comprehensive stylistic analysis of the legal language used in Lahore High Court verdicts, exploring various linguistic characteristics, trends, and challenges faced by the court in communicating its decisions. By examining a diverse selection of case studies, this research seeks to shed light on the ways in which language shapes the outcomes of legal disputes and influences the perception of justice.

Statement of the Problem

The central problem addressed in this study is the pervasive challenge of understanding complex and often incomprehensible language utilized in court verdicts. When a court issues a verdict, it typically employs a specialized legal language rife with intricate legal terminology and convoluted sentence structures. As every profession has its own specific language so the legal language has also its own legal terminologies. Apart from these legal terminologies, it also uses various stylistics and linguistic devices which shape the tone and impact of court language. This study basically addressed specific stylistic features that are used in court verdicts. The basic problem that researcher wanted to address in this study is to examine those stylistic features which makes the court verdicts into pure legal language. Hence, the core issues addressed in this research is to find stylistic devices used in legal text and to understand their impact in order to accomplish communicative purpose of the text.

Research Objectives

The research objectives of this study are:

- To identify the stylistic features employed in legal language within family and criminal Lahore High Court verdicts.
- To find out communicative purposes of the text through stylistic markers in Lahore High Court Verdicts.

Research Questions

The study is framed around the following questions:

- What are stylistic features employed legal language in family and criminal Lahore High Court verdicts?
- How do stylistic markers help to accomplish the communicative purpose in Lahore High Court Verdicts?

Significance of the Study

The significance of studying stylistic features in legal language within family and crime reports in Lahore High Court verdicts is paramount of this research. By identifying and simplifying complex stylistic elements, this research has the potential to greatly enhance the accessibility of the legal language for the general public. It can contribute to improve legal clarity, transparency, and fairness, fostering trust between the public and the legal system as this study involves a thorough examination of stylistic features, patterns, and trends in selected family cases and criminal cases it will help to assess the readability and accessibility of selected judgments to various audiences, including legal practitioners, litigants, and the general public.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Legal language, also known as legalese, has a rich verifiable foundation that has molded its utilization and improvement inside the general set of laws. In order to comprehend the development and significance of legal language, it is essential to comprehend the historical context. The development of specialized

legal language can be traced back to ancient civilizations, when the need for formalized legal systems led to the development of legal language. (Olson, 2003).

Saleem et al. (2019) conducted a research on “The Construction of Factuality in Pakistan’s Legal Discourse: A Stylistics Analysis of Legal Discourse Fallacies” that in courts of Pakistan legal language English has considered the greatest virtue because language of law provides language’s certainty and make it litigants to attain the coveted aim of rule of law. He finds that the way legal is written it can sometimes be really confusing because it’s full of tricky words and mistakes. When people don’t understand this legal language well, they can get mixed up. It’s like when you read something and don’t know what it means because the words are so hard to understand, or there are mistakes in it. This can make it tough for anyone, including lawyers and regular folks, to figure out what the law is saying. So, making legal language clearer and fixing errors are important to help everyone understand the rules and rights better.

A research on the topic of “A Stylistic Study of Legal Language in the Verdicts of the Supreme Court of Pakistan” and highlight the function of stylistics analysis in judgments of Supreme Court Pakistan. The researchers found the complexity of the stylistic and convention of the legal text as a conventional Pakistani Legal English style. Researchers stated that stylistics is basically the bridge between the content in the language and the form. Stylistic is also useful for the understanding of the verdicts form language point of view because it also highlights the style of any text as determinant of its understandability (Ahmad, A., Saleem, M. M., & Hussan, S., 2019).

Khan and Khan (2015) carried out a research on “Stylistic study of Legal Language” and stated that their basic aim is to study the stylistics features of legal language. They tried to identify stylistics devices and text communication function by using *Rudimentary’s introduction to linguistics* with three basic levels of analysis as graphological, lexical and syntactical level. Language of law to them, is basically the style of used by lawyers and other profession of law like pleadings, legal writing and the drafting of written material. There is

different dimension of language of law such as summons, briefs and judgments are included into “court pleadings”, contracts and license are included into “legal document”; Acts of parliament and subordinate legislation because reports are included into “law”.

Saleem et al. (2019) conducted a study as “*The Construction of Factuality in Pakistan’s Legal Discourse: A Stylistic Analysis of Logical Fallacies*” and asserted that in courts of Pakistan legal language English is still considered as colonial legacy. Languages of law have been considered the greatest virtue because language of law gives languages certainty and make litigants to attain the coveted goal of rule of legal language. Language of law is ambiguous and also undergoes errors. In order to get fewer rates of ambiguity and errors the reader of legal language had to command over language of law.

Asghar et al. (2018) formed a study under topic as “*A Multi-Dimensional Analysis of Pakistani Legal English*”. Their research is based on a sizable sample of eight distinct Pakistani legal genres, encompassing approximately two million words, utilizes Biber's (1988) Multidimensional Analysis model as a framework for examination. The ensuing findings highlight marked variations in linguistic patterns across these genres. Notably, all categories exhibit significant disparities along each dimension, underscoring the heterogeneity of legal language. This diversity within the language is indicative of the myriad linguistic features associated with different legal genres, emphasizing the necessity to consider legal language in terms of its overarching goals, purposes, audiences, and contextual nuances.

Ahmad et al. (2015) conducted a study in which they applied stylistic analysis to the 'Muslim Family Laws Ordinance 1961,' revealing its sophisticated linguistic features. Their examination unveiled the use of mathematical repetition, typography, logical organization, and intricate linguistic elements within the statute, shedding new light on its legal composition. This comprehensive approach provides valuable insights for legal practitioners, the Muslim community, and linguistic researchers, enhancing understanding and appreciation of this extensive legal text.

Abohadi (2019) carried out a research on the topic of “A Review of the Legal Language Development” with the Focus on its Lexico grammatical Features. This study objects to characterize language of law and shed light on the authentic advancement of legal English and continues to give an arrangement of language of law in views of various approaches. This is trailed by presenting some of the striking highlights the legal language composition. It is known that every occupation has fostered its own sort of language which we known as type. For instance, areas of news coverage, medication have their own particular phonetic highlights which we were created to accomplish certain open capabilities. Such highlights can be featured among others, at the phonological, semantic, syntactic, lexical and phonological levels. Essentially, the legitimate field no special case for these explicit highlights. Notwithstanding, the current review will be restricted to the lexical and syntactic highlights of legal language.

A comprehensive study on a comparison the linguistic styles and rhetorical techniques employed in Lahore High Court verdicts with Sindh High Court and Islamabad High Court. This meticulous comparative approach not only shed light on the differences and nuances in the linguistic and rhetorical strategies adopted by these prominent courts but also provided valuable insights into the regional variations in legal language and style. Through a meticulous analysis of legal texts, Ahmed's research uncovered the unique patterns, preferences, and idiosyncrasies in the way legal professionals in each region conveyed their judgments and decisions. This study not only contributed to our understanding of the regional nuances within the legal domain but also had practical implications for legal practitioners and scholars seeking to improve their proficiency in the use of language and rhetoric within the context of the Pakistani judicial system (Shafqat, A., Memon, R. A., & Khan, T. A., 2022).

All the above mentioned studies are related with this research in the perspective of study of legal language. This particular research provides more detailed view of stylistic analysis of the selected cases.

RSEARCH METHODOLOGY

This particular research explores the stylistics features of court verdicts from the Lahore High Court, Pakistan. In order to carry out this research qualitative research design has been used. Theoretical framework of this research is derived from two influential works in the field of stylistics, Geoffrey Leech's "A Linguistic Guide to English Poetry" (2014) and Mick Short's "Exploring the Language of Poems, Plays, and Prose" (2018), are proposed as base models for analyzing these legal texts. The data for this study is collected from the online website of the Lahore High Court (*data.lhc.gov.pk*). The sample for this research consists of a carefully selected set of legal documents, specifically one family cases and one criminal cases derived from Lahore High Court verdicts. These cases were chosen using purposive sampling, ensuring that they represent a diverse range of legal scenarios and language usage within the family and criminal law domains. While the sample size is limited due to the nature of the study, it is designed to provide a focused and in-depth analysis of the stylistic features in legal language. The selected cases aim to offer meaningful insights into the language used in real-world legal situations, shedding light on how these stylistic features influence the clarity and tone of the legal text in family and criminal contexts.

DATA ANALYSIS

This section of the study embarks on a detailed exploration of the data analysis conducted within the framework of this research. The central objectives of the research are to highlight the stylistic features used in legal text as well as also find out the communicative purpose through stylistic markers.

Analysis of Family Case No. 1

Lexical category

In the text of family case No .1 the text primarily uses formal and legal vocabulary, such as "Respondent No.2," "Petitioner," "Family Court," "judgment and decree," "execution petition," "Executing Court," "coercive process," "National Database and Registration Authority," "Computerized National Identity Card," "Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan," and

"Impugned Order." These terms are specific to the legal context and contribute to the formal tone of the text.

In the text of family case No .1 the language used in the text is formal and legalistic, which is expected in a legal document. Specialized legal terms like "Civil Procedure Code," "Family Court," "Family Courts Act," "Executing Court," and "Impugned Order" are used to maintain precision and clarity within the legal context. The word "competent" is used to indicate the Family Court's authority and ability to regulate its own proceedings

Nouns

In first paragraph the nouns are Respondent No.2, suit, recovery, dower, Petitioner, Family Court, Lahore, judgment, decree, execution petition, Executing Court, notice, coercive process, application, National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC), order, Constitution, Islamic Republic of Pakistan (total numbers 19). Nouns in the text mainly represent the key actors, legal terms, and entities involved in the legal proceedings and actions. In second paragraph nouns are "counsel": Refers to the legal representative of the petitioner. "Petitioner": Refers to the person who has filed the petition. "right," "identity," "life," "sanction," "law," "person," "CNIC" (Computerized National Identity Card), "Federal Government," "grounds," "section," "National Database Registration Authority Ordinance," "Impugned Order": These are all nouns that play essential roles in legal and administrative contexts (14). In third paragraph nouns are Assistant Attorney General, Civil Procedure Code, 1908, Family Court, section 17 of the Family Courts Act, 1964, procedure, law, instant case, Executing Court, coercive process, Petitioner, attendance, Impugned Order, last resort (13). In fourth paragraph nouns are Counsel, Respondent No.2, Law Officer, Impugned Order, Rule of law, Frustration, Decree, Date (used in the context of "13.8.2020") (8). In fifth paragraph nouns are personal identity, aspects, profile, moment, conception, information, date of birth, attributes, biographical data, physical traits, significant social relations, ties, family members, culture, religion, view, matter, right to identity, rights, name,

nationality, juridical personality, family, culture, legal experts, right of life, human dignity.

Adjectives

In first paragraph of the adjectives are ‘Her, his, enforcement, Impugned Order (4). Adjectives in the text provide additional information about the nouns they modify, such as possession (her, his) and qualification (enforcement, Impugned Order). In second paragraph the adjectives are "the": A definite article used before specific nouns, such as "the Petitioner" and "the Ordinance. “right to identity," "right to life," "due," "Federal," "National," "Database," "Registration," "Authority," "Ordinance," "instant": These adjectives help specify and modify the nouns they are associated with, providing additional information and context. (12). In third paragraph the adjectives are Assistant, Civil, Family, competent, own, specific, possible, coercive, last (9). In fourth paragraph the adjectives are Impugned (modifies "Order"), Necessary (modifies "Impugned Order"), Rule of law (used as an adjectival phrase modifying "maintenance") (3). In fifth paragraph the adjectives are significant (modifying "aspects"), personal (modifying "identity" and "attributes"), biographical (modifying "data"), physical (modifying "traits"), significant (modifying "social relations"), family (modifying "members"), culture (modifying "or religion"), right (modifying "to identity," "of life," "fundamental," and "non-derogable"), several (modifying "other rights"), name (modifying "rights"), nationality (modifying "rights"), juridical (modifying "personality"), legal (modifying "experts"), human (modifying "dignity")

Verbs

In first paragraph the verbs are Instituted, was decided, did not satisfy, filed, issued, appear, avoided, directed, block, lays challenge (10). Verbs represent the actions and events taking place in the legal proceedings, as well as the actions performed by the individuals involved. In second paragraph the verbs are "contends": Expresses the action of making an argument. “is”: A linking verb connecting "right to identity" with "part of right to life. “cannot be syncoated”: Expresses the inability to truncate or cut short. “can be cancelled, impounded, or confiscated”: Describes actions that can be taken regarding a

CNIC. "exist": Indicates the current state of the grounds mentioned in section 18(2) of the Ordinance. "had," "pass": Describe actions taken by the Executing Court (9). In third paragraph the verbs are Submits, does not apply, regulate, adopt, prohibited, took, failed, was passed (8). In fourth paragraph the verbs are Adopted, Argues, was (part of "was necessary"), Maintain, Prevent (5). In fifth paragraph the verbs are Comprises, are, begins, encompasses, such as, is associated, consider, posit.

Adverbs

In first paragraph the adverbs are Even, subsequently, eventually, through (4). Adverbs in the text provide information about the timing, sequence, and manner in which actions occurred. In second paragraph the adverbs are "only," "too," "not": Modify verbs and limit their scope. "without due sanction of law": Provides information about how the right to identity cannot be truncated. "only by the Federal Government": Specifies who can take the actions regarding a CNIC. "which do not exist in the instant case": Adds information about the specific situation being discussed. "Hence": Connects the previous statement to the conclusion." no jurisdiction": Qualifies the extent of the Executing Court's authority. In third paragraph the adverbs are not (modifying "does not apply"), so (indicating the result), specifically (modifying "prohibited"), even (indicating intensity), as a last resort (modifying "was passed") (5). In fourth paragraph adverbs are not present in the given text. In fifth paragraph the adverbs are Beyond (modifying "going"), such (modifying "encompasses"), e.g. (short for "exempli gratia," introducing examples), while (indicating contrast), thus (indicating consequence).

In the text of family case No.1, the functions of the lexical category are following

Nouns identify the key elements in the legal situation and provide a clear understanding of the parties, legal entities, and actions involved. **Adjectives** help specify possession (her, his) and describe the nature of the Impugned Order and the enforcement process. **Verbs** describe the actions and events in chronological order, from the institution of the suit to the challenge of the

Impugned Order. **Adverbs** provide temporal and transitional information, indicating the sequence of events in the legal process.

"Counsel" and "Law Officer" are nouns referring to legal professionals involved in the case. "Respondent No.2" is a specific legal entity in the case. "Impugned Order" refers to a specific legal document under discussion. "Rule of law" is a concept and is used to explain the purpose of the "Impugned Order." "Frustration" is a noun that is part of the phrase "frustration of decree," indicating an undesirable outcome. "Decree" is a legal term indicating a formal judgment or order of the court. "Date" is used in a temporal context, specifying a particular day.

Figures of speech

Based on the given text, here is a stylistic analysis according to Leech and Short's model in the category of figures of speech: In the figure of speech category, the researcher examines metaphors, metonymy, irony, synecdoche, simile, phonological scheme and under phonological scheme researcher explores alliteration, assonance, repetition and parallelism in legal text.

Metonymy: In first paragraph of family case No. 1 this metonymy is used "The use of "Petitioner" and "Respondent No.2" can be considered metonymy as they represent specific individuals involved in the legal case." In second paragraph metonymy is "CNIC" (Computerized National Identity Card) is used to represent a person's identity. It is a form of metonymy where a specific object (the ID card) is used to refer to a broader concept (identity)." In third paragraph of family case No.1 the researcher did not find any metonymy. In fourth paragraph of family case No. 1 the researcher did not find any metonymy. In fifth paragraph of family case No. 1 the metonymy is "The phrase "the right of life" can be seen as a metonymy, where "the right of life" represents the broader concept of the right to life itself."

Metaphor: In first paragraph of family case No. 1 the researcher did not find any metaphor. In second paragraph the metaphor is "right to identity is a part of right to life": The use of "right to identity" as a metaphor suggests that the concept of identity is closely intertwined with the concept of life." In third

paragraph of family case No .1 the metaphor is “The phrase "passed as a last resort" uses a metaphor, comparing the Impugned Order to a last resort, implying that all other options were exhausted.” In fourth paragraph metaphor is "Impugned Order": The term "Impugned Order" metaphorically suggests that the order is being challenged or called into question.” In fifth paragraph the metaphor is “The text contains metaphors, such as "the right to identity is associated with several other rights." Here, the right to identity is being compared or associated with other rights, making it a metaphorical expression.”

Irony: The researcher did not find any irony in first paragraph. The researcher did not find any irony in second paragraph. In the third paragraph of family case No.1 Irony is “There is an ironic tone in the phrase "took all possible steps," suggesting that the court did not take all possible steps or that these steps were ineffective.” In fourth paragraph of family case No. 1 the researcher did not find any irony. In fifth paragraph of family case No .1 the researcher did not find any irony.

Synecdoche: In family case No. 1 the researcher did not find any synecdoche in all paragraphs.

Simile: In family case No. 1 the researcher did not find any simile in all paragraphs.

Phonological Schemes

Alliteration: In first paragraph of family case No .1 the researcher did not find any alliteration. In second paragraph alliteration is, the repeated "c" sound in "cancelled, impounded or confiscated" creates alliteration, drawing attention to these actions and emphasizing their seriousness. In third paragraph Alliteration is, there is minimal alliteration in the sentence, such as in "Civil Procedure Code" and "Family Courts Act." This repetition of the "c" and "f" sounds creates a phonological scheme. In fourth paragraph Alliteration is, "Counsel for Respondent No.2": The repetition of the "r" sound in "Counsel for Respondent No.2" creates an alliterative effect, adding a rhythmic quality to the phrase. In fifth paragraph Alliteration is, there are instances of alliteration, such as in the

phrase "significant social relations." The repetition of the "s" sound in "significant" and "social" creates alliteration.

Assonance: In first paragraph of family case No. 1 the researcher did not find any assonance. In second paragraph of family case No. 1 assonance is: The repetition of the "i" sound in "identity is" and "Impugned Order" creates assonance, which can add a melodious or rhythmic quality to the text. In third paragraph of family case No. 1 assonance is: The repetition of vowel sounds, as seen in "Petitioner's attendance," contributes to an assonance scheme. The researcher did not find any assonance in fourth paragraph of family case No. 1. In fifth paragraph of family case No. 1 assonance is: The text also includes assonance in phrases like "personal attributes" where the repetition of the "a" sound in "personal" and "attributes" creates a melodious effect.

Repetition: In first paragraph of family case No. 1 the researcher did not find any repetition. In second paragraph of family case No. 1 repetition is "That too on the grounds enumerated": The repetition of "enumerated" adds emphasis to the limited circumstances under which the Federal Government can take action regarding a person's CNIC." In third paragraph of family case No. 1 the researcher did not find any repetition. In fourth paragraph of the family case No. 1 repetition is "He argues": The repetition of the phrase "He argues" emphasizes the speaker's continuous assertions or claims. In fifth paragraph of the family case No. 1 the researcher did not find any repetition.

Functions of Figures of Speech in the Language of LHC Verdicts

Overall, the language used in the given text is precise and formal, which is typical in legal discourse. The figures of speech employed serve to emphasize certain points and highlight the importance of legal procedures and rights. Leech and Short's model of stylistics focuses on the linguistic and rhetorical aspects of a text to understand how language is used to convey meaning and create certain effects. In this legal text, the use of figures of speech and phonological schemes serves to emphasize the importance of the right to identity and the exclusive authority of the Federal Government in matters related to identity documents. These linguistic devices help make the argument more persuasive and memorable. The text employs figure of speech like

metaphor and irony to convey its message. The phonological schemes used are relatively subtle, with occasional instances of alliteration, assonance, and consonance. These stylistic elements enhance the text's clarity and persuasive power in a legal context

Analysis of Criminal Case No. 1

Lexical category

Nouns: In first paragraph nouns are “Prosecution, story, paragraph, judgment, trial court, complaint, officer, district officer, water management, Bahawalpur, case, RanaJavedIqbal, Deputy District Officer, National Program, Improvement of Water Courses, letter, Muhammad Tasleem, supervisor, presidents, treasurers, Khall committee, Moga No. 119415-R, Moga No. 126024-R, amount, Rs. 13,25,000/-.” (25). In second paragraph nouns are following, Nouns refer to people, places, things, or concepts. They often carry the main informational content in a text. In the provided text, examples of nouns include "registration," "crime report," "investigation," "case," "Basharat Ali S.I.," "Farhat Hussain Farooq," "Director," "Anti-Corruption Establishment," "Bahawalpur," "report," "section 173, Cr.P.C.," "trial court," "appellant," and "co-accused Muhammad Bilal." (15). In third paragraph nouns are "pre-trial codal formalities""pre-trial" and "codal" are adjectives modifying "formalities," specifying the type of formalities. "formalities" serves as the main noun, referring to the procedures required before a trial."charge," "sections," "PPC," "section," "Prevention of Corruption Act". "charge" is a noun denoting the accusation against the appellant. "sections" and "section" refer to specific legal provisions."PPC" is likely an acronym for a legal act or provision."Prevention of Corruption Act" is the name of a legal statute. "appellant" refers to the person appealing against the charges. “trial" indicates the legal proceeding (8). In fourth paragraph nouns are prosecution, witnesses, Muhammad Kashif Abdullah, application, registration, case, order, Director Anti-Corruption Establishment, Bahawalpur, F.I.R, RanaJaved, DDO (WM) Bahawalpur, complainant, Farrukh Rasheed, witness, recovery memos, HazoorBakhsh, president, watercourse committee, outlets, موگا No.126024-R Mouza Agha Pur, Haji Nazeer Ahmad, cashier, Farhat Hussain Farooq,

Investigating Officer, steps, investigation, Basharat Ali S.I., scribe, Police Station Bagdad ul Jadeed, completion, evidence, appellant, allegations, innocence, question, culprits, statement, oath, Section 340(2) Cr.P.C., disproof (41). In fifth paragraph nouns are "trial court" - The use of "trial court" instead of just "court" adds specificity and formality to the text. It conveys a sense of legal authority, "judgment" - This term is precise and formal, appropriate in a legal context, "appellant" - A formal legal term referring to the person who appeals a court decision. It maintains a formal tone. (3)

Verbs: In first paragraph verbs are: reads, lodged, is, gleaned, obtained, misusing, informed, had, misappropriated. (9). In second paragraph verbs, Verbs are action words that indicate what is happening in the text. They can also convey tense and aspect. In the text, verbs like "registration," "entrusted," "was," "submitted," "became," and "declared" are used (6). In third paragraph verbs are "observing," "was framed," "pleaded," "claimed" (4). "observing" and "claimed" are main verbs. "was framed" is a passive construction, indicating the action taken against the appellant. "pleaded" indicates the appellant's response to the charges. In fourth paragraph verbs are produced, received, recorded, was, was, was, was, was, was, stated, taken, deposed, have, let off, involved, falsely, opted, make, produced. (19). In fifth paragraph verbs are "convicted" - This verb is a critical action in a legal context. It is formal and emphasizes the court's decision, "sentenced" - Another important legal action that is formal and denotes the punishment imposed by the court, "mentioned" - While not a legal verb, it is used here to link the action back to some previously discussed information. It's less formal but serves a specific function in this context (3).

Adverbs: In first paragraph adverbs are as, under, fraudulently, officially, blankly (5). In second paragraph adverbs are, Adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs. They often provide information about how, when, where, or to what degree an action occurs. In the text, there are few adverbs, such as "thereafter," which indicates a sequence of events (1). In third paragraph adverbs are "After," "against," "not" (3). "After" indicates the timing of the "observing." "against" indicates the action taken with respect to the

appellant. "not" modifies "guilty," indicating the nature of the "plea." In fourth paragraph adverbs are as, once again, falsely, just, neither, provided (6). In fifth paragraph adverbs are "above" - This adverb is used to refer to something mentioned earlier in the text. It is not overly formal but serves a specific function in clarifying the reference.

Adjectives: In first paragraph adjectives are learned, official, blank, said, meant, national, improvement, blank, said, alleged, official (11). In second paragraph adjectives are in the text, there are few adjectives, but they play a role in specifying or qualifying nouns. Examples include "crime," "learned," "co-accused," and "proclaimed." (4). In third paragraph adjectives are, "pre-trial," "codal" These adjectives specify the type of "formalities. "specific," "legal" These adjectives provide additional detail about the "provisions." "appellant," "not guilty," "corruption" These adjectives describe the "plea" and the nature of the "act." In fourth paragraph adjectives are, many, seven, as, application, registration, recorded, various, investigating, false, actual (10). In fifth paragraph adjectives are "learned" - This adjective is used to emphasize the knowledge and expertise of the court. It adds a formal and respectful tone, "conclusion" - Although not typically considered an adjective, it's used here as an attributive noun. It serves to describe the point in time when the trial ended. It maintains a formal tone, "convicted" and "sentenced" - These adjectives describe the actions taken by the court. They are precise and formal (3).

Figures of Speech

Figures of speech are rhetorical devices that involve the use of language in a non-literal way to enhance the expression of ideas. Let's identify some figures of speech in the provided passages.

Metaphor: In first paragraph of criminal case No. 1 metaphor is, there are no explicit metaphors in the paragraph, but there is a metaphorical use of the term "gleaned" to describe how the prosecution case was extracted or collected from the complaint. In second paragraph of criminal case No. 1 researcher did not find metaphor. In third paragraph of criminal case No. 1 researcher did not find metaphor. In fourth paragraph of criminal case No. 1 metaphor is, "prove its

case" - The prosecution is not literally proving a physical case, but rather presenting evidence to establish its argument. In fifth paragraph of criminal case No. 1 researcher did not find metaphor.

Metonymy: In first paragraph of criminal case No. 1 metonymy is, the term "Water Management" is used metonymically to refer to the governmental department or organization responsible for water-related matters. In second paragraph of criminal case No. 1 metonymy is, "Anti-Corruption Establishment" stands as a metonymy for the organization responsible for addressing corruption cases. In third paragraph of criminal case No. 1 metonymy is, the phrase "Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947" uses metonymy, referring to a larger concept (the law) through a specific element (its title). In fourth paragraph of criminal case No. 1 metonymy is, "F.I. R (Exh.PA)" - Using "F.I. R" (First Information Report) to refer to the official document itself. In fifth paragraph of criminal case No. 1 metonymy is, In the sentence, "the learned trial court" can be seen as a form of metonymy, as it refers to the judge or judges who presided over the trial.

Irony: In first paragraph of criminal case No. 1 researcher did not find irony. In second paragraph of criminal case No. 1 researcher did not find irony. In third paragraph of criminal case No. 1 researcher did not find irony. In fourth paragraph of criminal case No. 1 irony is, "let off the actual culprits" - Implies that the witnesses are not actual culprits but are acting against the appellant. In fifth paragraph of criminal case No. 1 researcher did not find irony.

Simile: In first, second, third, fourth and fifth paragraph of criminal case No. 1 researcher did not find simile.

Synecdoche: In first paragraph of criminal case No. 1 synecdoche, the phrase "presidents and treasurers of Khall committee" can be seen as a synecdoche, where specific individuals (presidents and treasurers) represent the larger group (Khall committee). In second, third, fourth and fifth paragraph of criminal case No. 1 researcher did not find synecdoche.

Phonological Scheme

Alliteration: In first, second, third and fifth paragraph of criminal case No. 1 researcher did not find alliteration. In fourth paragraph of criminal case No. 1 alliteration is, "case against you," "witnesses being the officials" - Repetition of initial consonant sounds.

Repetition: In first paragraph of criminal case No. 1 repetition is of the short vowel sound /a/ can be seen in words like "Maqbool," "water," "fraudulently," "blank," "treasurers," etc. In second, third, fourth and fifth paragraph of criminal case No. 1 researcher did not find repetition.

Assonance: In first paragraph of criminal case No. 11 researcher did not find assonance. In second paragraph of criminal case No. 1 researcher did not find assonance. In third paragraph of criminal case No. 1 researcher did not find assonance. In fourth paragraph of criminal case No. 1 assonance is, "investigation of the case," "professed his innocence" - Repetition of vowel sounds.

Functions of Figures of Speech in the Language of LHC Verdicts

In fifth paragraph of criminal case No. 1 researcher did not find assonance. It's important to note that the given paragraphs are primarily written in a straightforward, factual style, which might limit the presence of elaborate figures of speech and phonological schemes. The language used is formal and legal in nature, focusing on conveying information clearly rather than relying heavily on stylistic devices. It is also worth mentioning that the identification of figures of speech can sometimes be subjective and open to interpretation. Different readers might identify different figures depending on their perspectives and the specific aspects of language they focus on.

RESULTS

Table 1: *Lexical Categories and Frequency in Family Case Verdict of LHC*

Noun	164
Adjective	83

Verb	101
Adverb	58

Noun is the term mostly used here in this portion. And alliterations on this portion as the top figure of speech here.

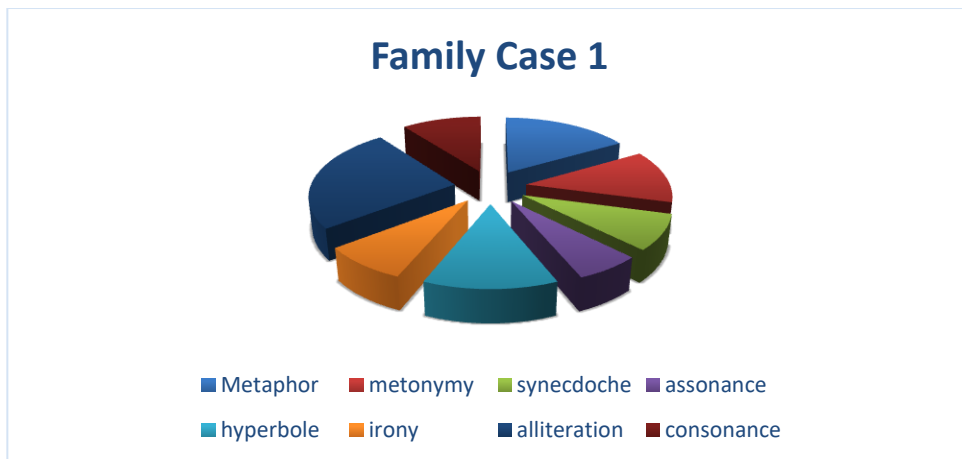


Figure 1: *Family Case 1*

Table 2: *Lexical Categories and Frequency Criminal Case 1 Verdict of LHC*

Noun	188
Adjective	88
Verb	107
Adverb	51

In last case also the highest part of speech is noun while from the figure of speech category metaphor is also used the highest choice for the law officers.



Figure 2: *Criminal Case 1*

In the above table and figure, noun is the highest choice of the law officers in the legal language for the High court Judges and Metaphoric language is the figure of speech they mostly use to convey their judgments or ideas in a clear way respectively.

Findings and Discussion

Stylistic Features use in Legal language of Lahore High Court Verdicts

The findings of the objective focused on highlighting the stylistic features used in legal texts of family and criminal verdicts of Lahore High Court, with a specific emphasis on the frequency of noun usage as the highest, followed by verbs as the second most common feature. Additionally, the objective aimed to identify the prevalence of figurative language elements, including metaphors, metonymy, irony, synecdoche, simile and phonological scheme.

The analysis of legal texts in family and crime reports revealed that nouns were the most frequently used stylistic feature. This observation suggests that legal documents in these contexts heavily rely on naming and identifying entities, actions, and attributes to convey information and maintain clarity. The second most frequently used stylistic feature in the examined legal texts was verbs. Verbs play a vital role in legal documents, as they indicate actions,

responsibilities, and legal obligations. They are essential for describing events, obligations, and the dynamics of legal cases. The high frequency of verbs reflects the need for precision and action-oriented language in legal reports. The analysis indicated that adjectives and adverbs were the least used stylistic features in the legal texts of family and crime reports.

The examination of figurative language in legal texts revealed that metaphors were the most commonly used figure of speech. This finding suggests that metaphorical language is a valuable tool for conveying abstract legal ideas in a more accessible manner. Irony was identified as the second most important figure of speech in the analyzed legal texts. Irony in legal writing is often used to highlight contradictions, inconsistencies, or unexpected outcomes, emphasizing the persuasive and rhetorical aspects of legal discourse.

Communicative Purposes of Text through Stylistics Markers

The analysis of Lahore High Court verdicts aimed to uncover the communicative purpose of the text through the analysis of stylistic markers, reveal significant patterns in the text. Here are the key findings: The analysis indicates that nouns are the most frequently used part of speech in the text, highlighting their fundamental role in conveying the message. Nouns are typically essential for providing clarity, naming entities, and defining key concepts within the text. This reflects the text's focus on substantive content and its intention to convey information and identify subject matter. Verbs are the second most commonly used part of speech. Their frequent usage indicates the text's emphasis on action, description, and the expression of relationships between various elements. Verbs play a crucial role in articulating the sequence of events and actions, further elucidating the text's communicative purpose. Adjectives and adverbs are used less frequently, implying that the text relies more on nouns and verbs for direct and straightforward expression. When adjectives and adverbs are used sparingly, they are likely to carry specific nuances and are selected for particular emphasis or clarity. Their infrequent use suggests an economy of description and modification.

The text predominantly employs metaphors as a figure of speech. This suggests that metaphors are employed to enhance the text's persuasive and evocative power. Metaphors add depth and complexity to the language, aiding in the expression of abstract concepts and making the text more engaging and vivid. Irony is the second most important figure of speech, indicating a subtle layer of meaning and often a critical or satirical undertone in the text. Irony serves to highlight discrepancies, provoke thought, and create a rhetorical impact, aligning with the text's communicative purpose. Personification is employed to attribute human qualities to non-human entities, which can make the text more relatable and vivid. Homonymy, the use of words with the same spelling or pronunciation but different meanings, adds depth and ambiguity to the text. Hyponymy, the use of specific terms within a broader category, aids in precision and classification. These less frequently used figures of speech suggest a more specialized role in conveying meaning in the text.

The findings of this analysis indicate that the text primarily employs nouns and verbs to convey its message with a focus on clarity and action. It relies on metaphors and irony to enhance the text's persuasiveness and rhetorical impact. The selective use of adjectives and adverbs demonstrates an economy of language, while metaphor, irony, play specialized roles in adding nuance and depth to the communication. These stylistic markers collectively contribute to the overall communicative purpose of the text.

Conclusion

The study has undertaken insights into the stylistic features employed in Lahore High Court verdicts and their role in achieving effective communication. Through a detailed analysis of stylistic markers, we have illuminated the ways in which legal professionals in Lahore High Court utilize language to convey their intended messages. The findings of this research underscore the importance of stylistic choices in legal discourse, shedding light on how they can enhance the clarity, persuasiveness, and overall impact of court verdicts. Understanding and appreciating the role of stylistic markers in legal documents is essential not only for legal practitioners but also for scholars, linguists, and anyone interested in the intricacies of language and law. This research has

contributed to our comprehension of the dynamic interplay between language and legal communication, ultimately emphasizing that the effective use of style is a powerful tool for achieving the communicative purpose of court verdicts in Lahore High Court and, by extension, in legal discourse worldwide. As we continue to explore and analyze the nuances of language within the legal context, this research serves as a foundation for future investigations and a reminder of the significance of style in the pursuit of justice and clarity in legal communication.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this research into the legal language of Lahore High Court verdicts few recommendations emerge for legal practitioners, linguists, policymakers, and those involved in legal education:

- Legal education programs should include linguistic training, while continuing legal education can focus on linguistic clarity.
- Legal professionals must be mindful of use of nouns for clarity and avoid excessive nominalization.
- Metaphors should be used strategically to enhance accessibility, with cross-cultural considerations in mind.

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