



## THE MORPHOLOGY OF PLURAL FORMATION IN DHAKNI URDU NOUNS: A LEXICAL PHONOLOGY AND MORPHOLOGY THEORY

*Saiqa<sup>1</sup>, Choudhry Shahid<sup>2</sup>, Zeeshan Alam Khan<sup>3</sup>*

*<sup>1</sup>Ph.D Scholar University of South Asia, Raiwand Road Campus, Lahore.*

*Email: [saiqa3894@gmail.com](mailto:saiqa3894@gmail.com)*

*<sup>2</sup>Head department of English, University of South Asia Lahore.*

*Email: [shahid.mahmood@usa.edu.pk](mailto:shahid.mahmood@usa.edu.pk)*

*<sup>3</sup>Corresponding Author, Ph. D Scholar University of South Asia, Raiwand Road Campus, Lahore. Email: [alamzeeshan4321@gmail.com](mailto:alamzeeshan4321@gmail.com)*

### **Abstract**

*This study investigates plural formation in Dhakni Urdu nouns within the framework of Lexical Phonology and Morphology (LPM). While Urdu pluralization has been described in traditional grammars, its interaction with phonological strata and lexical cycles remains underexplored. Drawing on elicited and naturally occurring speech data from seven Dhakni Urdu-speaking families in Gujranwala, Pakistan, the study analyzes 200 nouns using a qualitative descriptive approach. The findings reveal that plural formation in Urdu is governed by systematic morphophonemic alternations sensitive to gender, phonological endings, and lexical strata. Regular plural rules primarily operate at Stratum 3, whereas irregular and marked plurals show evidence of earlier lexical strata. Compound nouns display head-driven plural marking consistent with LPM cyclicity. The study demonstrates that Urdu pluralization is not merely suffixal but stratified, offering empirical support for the cross-linguistic applicability of LPM to Indo-Aryan languages.*

***Keywords:** Urdu morphology, Plural formation, Lexical Phonology and Morphology, Inflection.*

### **1. Introduction**

Urdu, an Indo-Aryan language spoken primarily in Pakistan and India, exhibits a morphologically rich and structurally complex system of plural formation. Unlike languages where pluralization is predominantly suffixal, Urdu plural morphology involves systematic alternations conditioned by gender, phonological endings, and lexical origin. Although previous studies have documented plural patterns in Urdu (Ahmed, 2014; Schmidt, 1999; Islam, 2011), these works largely remain descriptive and do not sufficiently account for the interaction between morphology and phonology across lexical strata.

This study addresses this gap by analyzing plural formation in Dhakni Urdu nouns through the theoretical lens of Lexical Phonology and Morphology (Kiparsky, 1982). LPM is particularly suitable for Urdu because it captures cyclic interactions between morphological operations and phonological processes, allowing plural rules to be mapped onto distinct lexical strata. By focusing on native Dhakni Urdu speakers, this research contributes dialect-specific empirical data and advances theoretical understanding of how pluralization operates within a stratified lexicon.

#### **1.1 Research Objectives**

- 1) To identify and explore the morphological rules for plural formation in Urdu nouns
- 2) To examine how gender and lexemes' endings affect the pluralization process



- 3) To investigate how Urdu pluralization patterns align with stratum-specific behavior in Lexical Phonology and Morphology

## 1.2 Research Questions

- 1) What are the basic morphological rules that govern plural making in Urdu nouns?
- 2) How does the gender and phonological ending of nouns influence their plural state?
- 3) How do pluralization patterns reflect lexical strata within the LPM framework?

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1 Urdu Morphology and Linguistic Background

Urdu is an Indo-Aryan language spoken all over the world as a lingua franca and in Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh as a native language. It takes its roots and affixes from Persian and Arabic. In Pakistan, 116 million Urdu speakers exist. It is one of India's official languages with 50 million speakers, and it has approximately 250,000 speakers in Bangladesh. There are 17 to 18 million people residing in Lahore, Karachi, and Islamabad who speak Urdu as their first language. However, over 200 million people in Pakistan can understand Urdu as it is also used as a lingua franca. (Ambreen et al, 2025). It is also spoken in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, South Africa, Canada, the US, and the UK, but is not dominant outside India and Pakistan. (Mushtaq et al, 2022).

### 2.2 Plural Formation in Urdu Nouns

The plural making is the inflectional process, as in it the class of lexical items is not altered and remains the same. (Booij, 2012; Bauer, 2003; Islam, 2011). A plural lexeme is just the same with the addition of a suffix. The suffixes /ā:/ and /ē:/ are usually the suffixes used for plural making in the Urdu language. In linguistics, Morphological analysis is the study of word structure formation and analysis, such as determining, analyzing, and explaining the morphemes and some other linguistic units that combine to make up a coherent language structure, including parts of speech, suffixes, prefixes, and other linguistic units. According to morphology, the main purpose behind the morphological analysis is to identify which category each word in the text belongs to, specifically to determine which lexical grammatical class words are connected (Mengliyev et al, 2021).

Moreover, the affixes in the Urdu language are rich in productivity; therefore, they form new words in combination with words that belong to different sources. But still, some affixes work as loan affixes; they yield many words by combining with the root words of other sources. The morphological system is productive but also has irregularities in forms (Seidenberg & Gonnerman, 2000). Compared to the other languages, the pluralization occurring in the English language is by the suffixation; in itself, it is the alteration of vowels, which is the main constituent in the number or gender morphology.

### 2.3 Morphological Processes Relevant to Pluralization

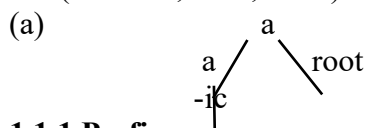
#### 2.3.1 Types of Morphology and Word Formation Processes

To fulfill the needs of this research, the three types of morphology will have to be discussed. Hence, the fundamental purpose of morphological functioning is word formation. The linguists have made a variance between inflectional morphology, derivational morphology, and compounding.

### 2.3.1.1 Derivational Morphology

Derivation is the process of generating a new word by the affixation process in the free morpheme or root word. (Booij, 2000). It is the process of creating a new lexical item by adding a prefix or suffix to the free morpheme or root word. It changes the meaning of the word and maybe its class or functional category too. (Booij, 2000). If it does not change its class, it is known as a neutral affix. For example, the word “work” is a verb. When “er” is added to it, it becomes “worker,” and its functional category also changes to a noun. Take another example. There is a word “happy”. “Un” is added to it, a new word is made, and it becomes “unhappy”. Both are adjectives. Thus, it is called a neutral prefix. There are many other examples of derivational morphemes.

It is considered that there are two forms of derivational affixes, one is a root, and the other is somehow a categorial head (Creemers et al, 2018). It is shown that the classification of the word is not represented through the lexicon but more readily comes after the functional heads, which determine the category. Derivational affixes are seen as the understanding of these ‘xs’ mean heads. In the example given below, an uncategorized root element becomes an adjective employing the functional head that is combined with this root. This head is comprehended through the word bank, like -ic (Marantz, Alec, 2001).



#### 2.3.1.1.1 Prefix

A prefix is a bound morpheme placed at a word's beginning to create a new, meaningful word. It modifies the meaning of a free morpheme but cannot change the grammatical category of words. (Rahman, 2009). Un, re, pre, dis, sub, etc. are a few examples of prefixes in English, as in “unpredictable”, “repair”, “prereading”, “disrespect”, “sub-inspector”, and “sub discipline”. Other examples can be seen in re-play, disconnect, mislead, nonpayment, nonveg, prepaid, disobey, preschool, dislike, dishonest, preheat, subtitle, etc.

#### 2.3.1.1.2 Suffix

A suffix is a morpheme added to a word's end. It can also change the functional and grammatical categories of a lexeme. (Rahman, 2009). For example, “walk” is a verb when “er” is added, it becomes a noun. Some examples of suffixes in English are “ed”, “ly”, “ness”, “er”, and “able”, as in “played”, “keenly”, “evenness”, “teacher”, and “respectable”. Some other examples are rainy, upward, cloudy, movement, downward, scholarship, colorful, fearless, information, readable, quickly, teacher, singer, selfish, beautiful, etc. There are many other examples also. Furthermore, like suffixes in English, suffixation is a process of inserting a suffix right after the base; sometimes this happens without any change, and frequently by changing of word class. However, suffixes do not play a major role in semantics; the main purpose of the suffix is to enhance the characteristics and modify the root (Olsen, 2000).

The process of adding prefixes and suffixes is called affixation. It plays a very important role in shaping and expanding the reservoir of lexical items of a particular language. This will be described later in this section in detail.



### 2.3.1.2 Inflectional Morphology

It deals with syntactically determined affixation processes. It changes the grammatical aspect. (Katamba, 1993). It is a modification in the word to perform different grammatical functions. The categories involved in it are tense, aspect, and mood. (Katamba, 1993). Unlike derivational morphology, it cannot change the functional category of words. For example, “love to loved”, “stop to stopped”, “dance to danced”, “jump to jumped”, etc. There are two types of inflection: regular and irregular.

In inflectional morphology, the cross-linguistic variations in the classification and form are so high that inflection cannot be defined generally. Instead, it is defined as the morphology classification that is ‘sensitive to the grammatical environment’ in which they are expressed. Inflection is a different category than derivation as it is a lexical category where choices are not dependent on the grammatical environment (Bickel et al. 2007).

### 2.3.1.3 Regular Plurals

The plurality of Urdu nouns depends on the number, gender, and form they carry. (Ahmed, T., 2014, May). All the nouns follow the pattern of regular inflection except a few. For example, /d̪uːlʰən/ becomes /d̪uːlʰən̄ː/ in plural form. This is the regular pattern of plural making in Urdu morphology as in /d̪oːst̪/ to /d̪oːst̪̄ː/ and /d̪ɪvaːr/ to /d̪ɪvaːr̄ː/. Such other examples are /d̪ʒuːt̪/ to /d̪ʒuːt̪̄ː/ and /əlmaːrɪ/ to /əlmaːrɪ̄ː/.

### 2.3.1.4 Irregular Plurals

These plural forms do not follow the regular patterns but sound different. For example, “*Kitab*” /kɪt̪ɑːb/ usually becomes /kɪt̪ɑː b̄ː/ by the speakers, but it is /kuː t̪əb/ in Urdu morphology according to the Arabic plural making rules. (Schmidt, 1999). The same is the case with the lexeme /begəm/. It is pluralized as /begəm̄ː/ instead of /begmɑː t̪/.

### 2.3.1.5 Compounding

It is combining two or more words to form a new word. In this process, two free morphemes come together to form new, meaningful lexical items, unlike derivation and inflection, in which bound morphemes get connected to generate novel words. Compound words are those that are made up of a combination of two or more words (Bauer, 2020). Panini, 5<sup>th</sup> Century BC, and Patanjali, 2C BC, are the first known grammarians who belong to India; they are known as the first linguists who studied the compounding phenomenon. They dealt with the Sanskrit compound words, and their study consisted of semantic criteria (Mahavir, 1978).

The most significant element in morphology is the way new words are made through the process of compounding. For example, toothpaste, blackboard, greenhouse, windmill, classroom, etc. In compound words, one constituent is the head in most cases, as in “football”; the second one is the modifier. we cannot say football is a particular kind of “foot”; rather, it is said that it is a specific kind of “ball”. Other languages have heads in compounds. (Booij, 2007). Other examples are jellyfish, honeycomb, rainbow, cupcake, toothbrush, honeymoon, lipstick, popcorn, starfish, earring, lighthouse, handbag, runway, raincoat, daydream, moonlight, butterfly, etc. Another example is “bus station”. This compound word is commonly used in Urdu, though “bus station” is a combination of English words. In Urdu, “rail gaarhi” /reɪl ɡɑː ɾʰɪ/, “nelaam ghar” /nɪlɑː m ɡʰər/, “chayee khanaa” /tʃɑː eɪ xʰɑːnɑː/, “beil gaarhi” /bɛɪl ɡɑː ɾʰɪ/, are a few examples. Moreover, the general method of classifying compounds is by analyzing their function in the sentence. The



syntactic division is marked in two ways, primarily according to the words' class as a whole of the compound and the compound's word class of the individual parts (Bauer, 2010).

#### **2.4 Identified Research Gap**

Previous Urdu studies describe plural patterns but do not account for cyclicity, stratal distribution, and morphophonemic cloudiness and obscurity, which this study addresses.

### **3. Research Methodology**

The study is based on a qualitative descriptive approach analysis, as it is essential for the description of a detailed analysis, as is in the current research.

#### **3.1 Data Collection**

The data for this research were collected from Urdu speakers of the Dhakni dialect residing in the Gujranwala region, Punjab, Pakistan. Seven families are interviewed personally using both open and closed-ended questions through structured and unstructured interviews. 200 nouns are selected through purposive sampling. Variables such as age, gender, and education are excluded.

#### **3.2 Data Analysis**

The analysis of collected data is conducted in several phases, including the classification of nouns, identification of plural markers, stratum analysis, and phonological conditions. 200 words are selected randomly from the recorded data. These lexemes are analyzed by applying the theoretical framework of Kiparsky, which were selected randomly from the collected data. These lexemes are taken from the natural environment in the ordinary talks of the native speakers of the Urdu language.

#### **3.3 Theoretical Framework**

##### **LPM Theory**

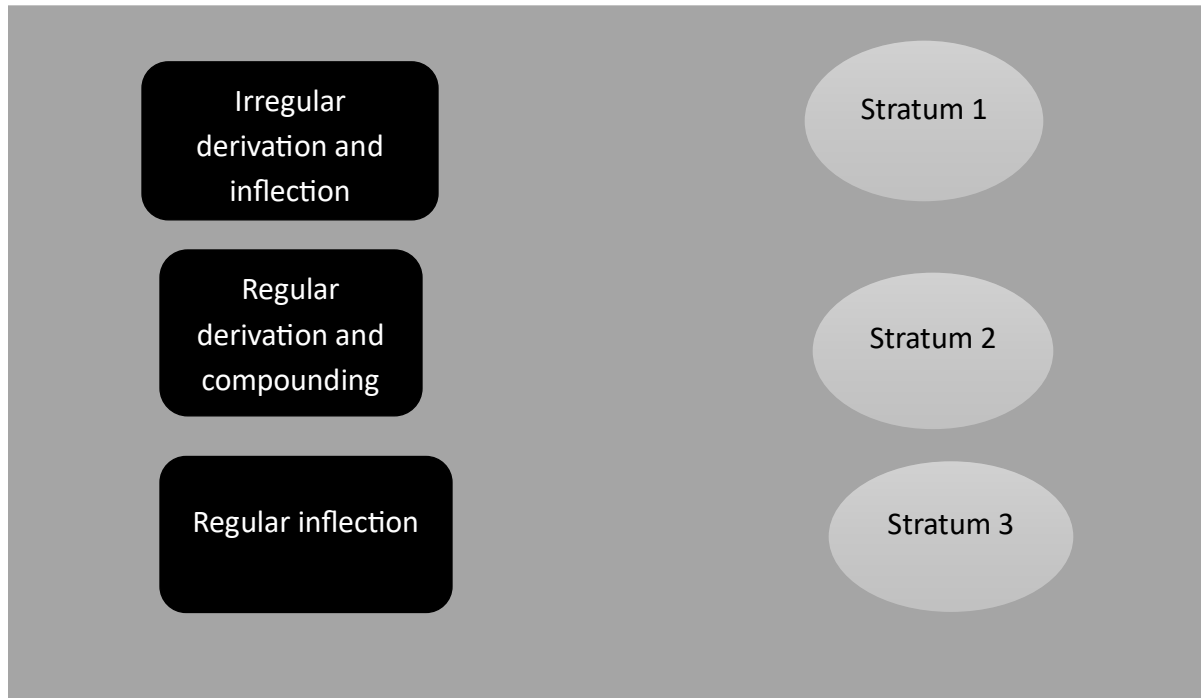
The theory opted for in this paper is Lexical Phonology and Lexical Morphology, which can be referred to as Lexical Phonology and Morphology (LPM). According to this theoretical approach, it is not a morpheme, but rather a word, which is the key unit of the morphological analysis. Unlike American analytical approaches to the morphological paradigm, in which a morpheme is a basic unit for structural analysis of a language, LPM theory goes for a single whole word to make it an essential basic entity in analytical morphology. (Safder & Mangrio, 2021).

Another prime statement rendered by the proponents of this theory is that the rules that construct the morphological structure of a word and the phonological rules have a symbiotic relationship, as these are responsible for how a word is pronounced. Thus, there is a cyclic form that goes on for every structure. These rules are present in the lexicon organized in different layers, which can be called strata. These are put one after another in a hierarchical order.

Katamba (1993) classifies the English affixes into two domains: neutral and non-neutral ones. This classification is done based on their phonological behavior. Neutral affixes do not have any effect on the base words with which they join, while non-neutral ones do at both lexical and post-lexical levels. The phonological changes lead to derivational and inflectional processes in words, and these cannot be set apart. They both have to go side by side in a cyclic form.

The Kiparsky model of LPM is a significant framework that suggests that there are three strata in LPM (1982). He renders that stratum one deals with the derivational and inflectional processes, which are irregular. The second stratum, stratum two, has to deal with regular derivation

and compounding. Whereas the third and last stratum is to deal with regular inflection. This model is presented here in a figure form.



**Figure 1. Three Strata of LPM**

Kiparsky's model proposes the concept of strata or levels within a lexicon in a way that allows words to undergo change at different morphological and phonological levels. Each stratum has its own set of rules applied in a specific order within a lexicon. These levels are examined from the perspective of the Urdu language, and this theory is applicable in the Urdu language. These derivational and inflectional processes undergo cyclically. This means that when a lexeme is constructed through its basic form by the attachment of morphemes, the phonological rules apply again and again at each stage. This is a cyclic and recursive process of word formation, and how it happens in the Urdu language is examined with the help of this model in the current study.

To take the examples from the English language, it can be seen that “serious” becomes “seriousness” and “power” becomes “powerless” without any considerable change in consonant, vowel, and stress patterns by the addition of suffixes. The same is the case with “home” in “homeless” and “shame” in “shameless”. Thus, it is a neutral affixation. Take another example, as it seems in “strategy” to “strategic” or “library” to “librarian”. When these are pronounced, a clear change occurs in stress on the vowel parts of words. Thus, it is a type of non-neutral affixation.

It is assumed and presented by Kiparsky (1982) that irregular derivational and inflectional affixation happens at stratum one of the model, regular derivation and compounding happen at the second stratum, and regular inflections occur at the third stratum, as he proposed a three-layered

model for LPM theory. This affixation of each layer also has to go through the phonological processes then to demonstrate how a word is to be pronounced.

#### 4. Data analysis

##### 4.1 Number Markers in Nouns

According to the grammatical distinction, a number is a concept that specifies whether a noun refers to a singular or plural, or more than one entity. Generally, numbers are divided into two categories.

- Singular
- Plural

To change the singular form into a plural one in the Urdu language, it is crucial to have an idea about the gender of that noun. This portion takes into consideration the singular or plural form, in other words, number markers, but gender is highlighted to convert into the plural form (Acquaviva, 2008). There are certain rules, which are as follows.

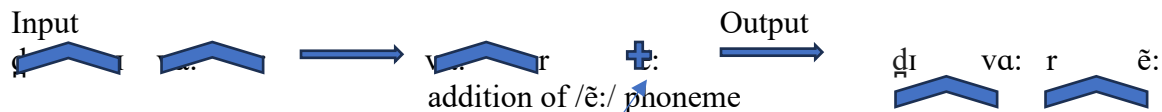
##### Rule I

For the pluralization, the phoneme (ا) “-aa” ‘/ɑ:/’ is replaced with (ے) or “/e/” in the masculine gender whereas, the ending phoneme (ی) “-i/i” , /i/ is changed into (یاں) “-iyan” /jɑː:/ and یں /jɛː:/ in the feminine gender.

For example, “Medicine” in Urdu is known as (دوا) /d̪əvaː/, which comes as a plural form by suffixing the last phoneme with (ی/یں) /ɛː:/ to make (دوائیں) /d̪əvaːɛː/. Moreover, words like table (میز) /meɪz/ and book (کتاب) /kɪt̪ɑːb/ are singular and become plural by following the same process of pluralization. They come to view as /meɪzɛː/ and /kɪt̪ɑːbɛː/. Examples are given in the table where words are marked either plural or singular.

Table 1. Plural Making (Rule I).

Word (feminine, singular)	Transcription	Gloss	Word (feminine, plural)	Transcription	Gloss
عورت	/ʔoːrɑːt̪/	Woman	عورتیں	/ʔoːrɑːt̪ɛː/	Women
دوا	/d̪əvaː/	Medicine	دوائیں	/d̪əvaːɛː/	Medicines
مصنفہ	/muːsɑːnɪfɑː/	Authoress	مصنفین	/muːsɑːnɪfɛː/	Authoresses
قاتلہ	/kaːt̪lɑː/	Murderess	قاتلائیں	/kaːt̪lɑːɛː/	Murderesses
تصویر	/t̪əsviːr/	Picture	تصویریں	/t̪əsviːrɛː/	Pictures
میز	/meɪz/	Table	میزیں	/meɪzɛː/	Tables
قمیض	/kəmiːz/	Shirt	قمیضیں	/kəmiːzɛː/	Shirts
دیوار	/d̪ɪvaːr/	Walls	دیواریں	/d̪ɪvaːrɛː/	Walls



This addition of the /ɛː/ phoneme leads to the morphological process, and the plural category of the existing lexeme is made. This is how the plural making of feminine singulars that do not end on /r/ phoneme and end on a consonant occurs in rule 1 of plural making.

## Rule II

According to rule II in the numbers category, all the marked feminine nouns that end on the vowel phonemes such as “i/ii” are transformed into the plural category by changing the ending phoneme into “-iyan” /jā :/. This happened in the Urdu language’s morphology. For instance, the noun “window” ‘کھڑکی’ /kʰɪɾki/ ends on ‘i’; this becomes ‘کھڑکیاں’ /kʰɪɾkijā :/ by suffixing ‘/jā :/’. Another noun is “fly” ‘مکھی’ /mʌkʰi/, which ends on the phoneme ‘i’ and its plural is made with the same process. So ‘مکھیاں’ /mʌkʰijā :/ is a plural form by the suffixation of a plural-making phoneme.

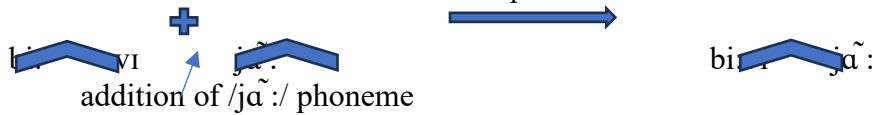
There are so many other examples that are mentioned in the table. All the examples above revealed that the singular form of the feminine marked noun is converted into plural forms by incorporating or following the RULE II.

Table 2. Plural Making (Rule II).

Word (singular, feminine)	Transcription	Gloss	Word (plural, feminine)	Transcription	Gloss
کھڑکی	/kʰɪɾki/	Window	کھڑکیاں	/kʰɪɾkijā :/	Windows
کرسی	/ku:rsi/	Chair	کرسیاں	/ku:rsijā :/	Chairs
رسی	/rəsi:/	Rope	رسیاں	/rəsi:jā :/	Ropes
مکھی	/mʌkʰi/	Fly	مکھیاں	/mʌkʰijā :/	Flies
لڑکی	/lɛɾki/	Girl	لڑکیاں	/lɛɾkijā :/	Girls
بیوی	/bi:vi/	Wife	بیویاں	/bi:vijā :/	Wives
استانی	/u:stʌ:ni/	Teacher	استانیاں	/u:stʌ:nijā :/	Teachers
چڑیا	/tʃɪɾjʌ:/	Sparrow	چڑیاں	/tʃɪɾjā :/	Sparrows
الماری	/ɔlma:ri/	Cupboard	الماریاں	/ɔlma:rijā :/	Cupboards
اونٹنی	/ũ:tni/	She-camel	اونٹنیاں	/ũ:tnijā :/	She-camels
جوتی	/dʒu:ti/	Sandal	جوتیاں	/dʒu:tijā :/	Sandals

Girl (لڑکی) /lɛɾki/ is ending on a vowel (ی) which is replaced with (یاں) “-iyan” /jā :/ to make plural (لڑکیاں) /lɛɾkijā :/. The same is the case with singular (بیوی) /bi:vi/, which is changed into (بیویاں) /bi:vijā :/ plural one as well, and (چڑیا) /tʃɪɾjʌ:/ also becomes plural by adding only (ں) /~ at the end as (چڑیاں) /tʃɪɾjā :/.

Input



The same process takes place here in the tree that /jā :/ phoneme is added to the lexeme ending on /i/, and by this, the lexeme ends on /i/ as /bi:vi/ becomes /bi:vijā :/ by linking together. This is rule II of the plurals making of female category entities. Here, phonemic change started the morphemic process, and a new morpheme comes into view in the Urdu language.

## Rule III

In masculine numbers, the category of singular nouns is changed into the plural ones by replacing the phoneme /ə/ (ا) “-aa” with (ے) or “-e” /e/, which transforms the singular masculine noun into the plural masculine form. For instance, the lexical item ‘ستاره’ /sɪɾa:ra:/ is a singular Urdu language word that ends on the /ə/ ‘a’ phoneme or ‘ہ’, and during the pluralization process,

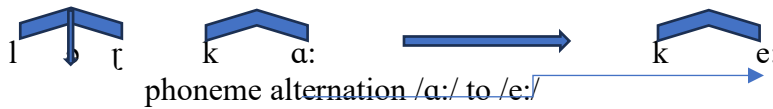
it follows the same rule and becomes ‘ستارے’ /sɪtɑ:re/ by adding ‘ے’ /e/ phoneme at the end of the morpheme. In this way, singular masculine morphemes are pluralized by replacing the ending phonemes.

Table 3. Plural Making (Rule III)

Word (masculine, singular)	Transcription	Gloss	Word (plural)	Transcription	Gloss
لڑکا	/lɔɾkɑ:/	Boy	لڑکے	/lɔɾke/	Boys
بھتیجا	/bʰətjɪ: dʒɑ:/	Nephew	بھتیجے	/bʰətjɪ: dʒe/	Nephews
پوتا	/pɔ: tɑ:/	Grandson	پوتے	/pɔ: tɛ/	Grandsons
جھنڈا	/dʒʰʌnda:/	Flags	جھنڈے	/dʒʰʌnde/	Flags
نواسہ	/nəvɑ: sɑ:/	Grandson	نواسے	/nəvɑ: seɪ/	Grandsons
مرغا	/mɪrɟɑ:/	Rooster	مرغے	/mɪrɟe/	Roosters
کھلونا	/kʰɪlɔ: nɑ:/	Toy	کھلونے	/kʰɪlɔ: ne/	Toys
بکرا	/bəkɾɑ:/	Goat	بکرے	/bəkɾe/	Goats
بچھڑا	/bətʃʰɾɑ:/	Bull	بچھڑے	/bətʃʰɾeɪ/	Bulls
کمرہ	/kəmɾɑ:/	Room	کمرے	/kəmɾe/	Rooms
دروازہ	/d̪ərvɑ: zɑ:/	Door	دروازے	/d̪ərvɑ: ze/	Doors
پردہ	/pərdɑ:/	Curtain	پردے	/pərdɛ/	Curtains
زرافہ	/zɪrɑ: fɑ:/	Giraffe	زرافے	/zɪrɑ: fe/	Giraffes
ستارہ	/sɪtɑ: rɑ:/	Star	ستارے	/sɪtɑ: re/	Stars

These examples represent that the lexical items transform into plurals only by replacing the last phoneme with /e/ such as the word (لڑکا) /lɔɾkɑ:/ is changed into plural (لڑکے) /lɔɾke:/ only by exchanging the ending phonemes as (ا), (“-aa”) /ɑ:/ is replaced with the (ے) or “-e”) /e:/ to make it plural.

Input



Output

In the above tree, the vowel is altered from /ɑ:/ to /e:/, and another morpheme of the plural category is made. This is rule III of plural making for the masculine category. In addition to this, Urdu words such as ‘جھنڈا’ /dʒʰʌnda:/, ‘نواسہ’ /nəvɑ: sɑ:/, and ‘بھتیجا’ /bʰətjɪ: dʒɑ:/, follow the same rule for the pluralization process.

#### Rule IV

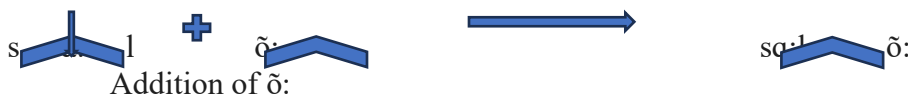
There are several lexical items in the Urdu language where the above-illustrated rules are not applied; they change their form by suffixing the phoneme ‘وں’ /ɔ:/ at the end. In addition, there is a lexeme used frequently in day-to-day language that is home or “گھر” /gʰɛr/. This lexeme changes its category and, while making the plural form, with the suffixation of ‘وں’ /ɔ:/ without excluding any phoneme, it comes forth as “گھروں” /gʰɛrɔ:/. This shows the transformation according to rule IV, marked. There are several different instances cited below.

Table 4. Plural Making Rule IV.

Word masculine, singular)	Transcription	Gloss	Word (plural)	Transcription	Gloss
سال	/sa:l/	Year	سالوں	/sa:lõ:/	Years
پھل	/pʰəl/	Fruit	پھلوں	/pʰəlõ:/	Fruits
تہوار	/təhvɑ:r/	Festival	تہواروں	/təhvɑ:rõ:/	Festivals
گھر	/gʰər/	Home	گھروں	/gʰərõ:/	Homes

Furthermore, another example is taken from the table “سال” /sa:l/. It is a singular form, and it is pluralized by following the same order as the addition of ‘وں’ /õ:/ phoneme turns the lexeme into the plural category “سالوں” /sa:lõ:/. Looking into a new example, the word ‘پھل’ /pʰəl/ is changed into the plural form by suffixing ‘وں’ /õ:/. Thus, it becomes ‘پھلوں’ /pʰəlõ:/. It is elaborated with a tree below.

Input



Output

#### Rule V

The Urdu language marks the plurals with numbers also. The mathematical digits are prefixed with the morphemes that present the meaning of plurality or more than one number. For instance, take a sentence from the native speakers’ conversation:

- 2 kəbɑ:b le a:o.
- 5 bentʃ tu:te hæ:.
- 6 lærkjɑ̃ : mərə hæ:.

The exemplified sentences show that the prefixing of digits makes sense of plurality in the nouns.

#### 4.2 Derivation

It is the process of deriving new lexemes from the existing ones. Compounding is one of the derivation processes. Many compound words in languages help facilitate smooth communication among the speakers. The compounding process is quite complex, as new words are made of smaller elements. The combination of two free morphemes (independent nouns) or one bound (dependent) and one free morpheme (independent nouns) comes forth as a single meaningful expression, and it is named as a compound word. As it is exemplified here, the free morpheme of the Urdu language /go:la:/ is joined with the bound morpheme /ba: rɪ/ and a new word is formed, which is /go:la: ba: rɪ/. There are many other compounds of the Urdu language as /khu:bsu:rəʃ/, /d̪ilkəʃ/, /səbh o: ʃɑ:m/, etc. This is how languages work. This all happens due to the morphophonemic processes.

Input



Table 5. Compound Nouns

Word	Transcription	Gloss
تانگہ والا	/tɑ̃ :gɑ: wɑ:lɑ:/	Coach man



زلف تراش	/zu:lf t̪əra:f/	Barber
رکشہ والا	/rɪkʃa: wa:la:/	Rickshaw driver
بس اڈا	/bəs ədda:/	Bus stop
کھانے کی ٹیبل	/kʰa:ne ki teɪbəl/	Dining table
گولہ باری	/go:la: ba:ri:/	Bombarded
ڈھولکی رات	/dho:lki ra:t̪/	Dholki night
پنجابی گانا	/pəndʒa:bi ga:na:/	Punjabi song
مہاجر کیمپ	/məha:dʒɪr kəmp/	Migrant camp
قوالی رات	/kəwa:li ra:t̪/	Qawwali night
گھوڑا گلی	/gho:ɾa: gəli/	Horse street
نکاح تقریب	/nɪka:h t̪əkri:b/	Nikah ceremony
شادی شدہ جوڑا	/ʃa:ɖi ʃu:ɖa: dʒo:ɾa:/	Married couple
چائے خانہ	/t̪ʃa:e xa:na:/	Tea studio

#### 4.2.1 Plural Making of Compound Nouns

Compound words enrich the Urdu lexicon and are used formally and informally by speakers. They behave differently when making plurals. The last lexeme changes its form into a plural category, whether it is Urdu or English. For instance, there is a lexeme /reil ga:ɾi :/. When it is made plural by suffixing plural markers as per rules, it turns into /reil ga:ɾjɑ :/. The ending morpheme gets the effect of the plural marker.

#### 5. Conclusion and Findings

The Urdu language plays an important role in the lives of people, including Pakistanis and Indians. In this paper, the Dhakni dialect is analyzed with the help of lexical phonology and morphology theory presented by Kiparsky in 1982. The findings of the research are described below.

##### 5.1 Rule I of Number Marking

It is the process of making the plural of feminine singulars that ends mostly on consonants. It is both a regular and irregular inflectional process, as in rule I, /ɛ:/ is added as a suffix to make a plural in regular inflection, but there are some examples in Urdu morphology where irregular plural making is also exposed. For instance, the *book* is a lexical term that belongs to the feminine group (singular). It is *kitab* /kɪtɑ:b/ in Urdu, and in the plural form of the noun, it is /ku: t̪əb/. also familiar as *kitabən* /kɪtɑ:bɛ:/ in Urdu due to the addition of plural markers and overgeneralization by the Urdu speakers. An irregular plural form of /kɪtɑ:b/ is /ku: t̪əb/.

##### 5.2 Rule II of Number Making

It is the process of suffixation of jɑ̃:/ in the singular feminine lexemes that mostly ends on vowels that is /i:/. One example from them is 'رسی' /ɾɒsi/. This word ends on the phoneme 'ی' or 'i', but the pluralization process changes it to 'رسیاں' /ɾɒsijɑ̃:/ by removing the 'ی' phoneme and adding the 'یاں' or 'jɑ̃:'. In addition, another lexeme belongs to the Greek language family. The word *sandal* originated from the Greek word "sandalion," which means wooden shoe. In late Middle English, it became *sandal*. The interpretation of this word in Urdu is "جوٹی" /dʒu:t̪/ in the plural form, in contrast, the word is transformed by the exchange of the last phoneme with "-iyan"





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