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An Evaluation of Pictorial Illustrations in Urdu Dictionaries

Abstract:

Pictures are of paramount significance and interest to the dictionary users. This study addresses the issue of the use of pictorial illustrations in Urdu dictionaries available on the market. Pictorial illustration definitely aids in giving clear concept of words and enhances word sense disambiguation as the graphic demonstrations are easier to comprehend than complexities of words. Each word possesses a particular structure and form. With the intention of intelligibility and interpretations of different shapes of words, their proper sequence, and their synonyms, the dictionaries are brought into being. Dictionaries provide words but lack in usage. Most of the words are scholarly items and are in sparing use of mere scholars and philosophers. According to Al-Kasimi (1977), the use of pictorial illustrations should not be arbitrary and incidental. Meaning recognition job is made easy with graphic illustrations. To ascertain to what degree and for what ends, Urdu dictionaries exercise graphic demonstrations, a survey, based on Stein (1991), was executed. The dictionaries were indiscriminately singled out and looked into for any type of graphic demonstration. This practice was made to know about the dictionaries which deploy pictures for the purpose of illustration.

This analysis reflected on the disposal of the demonstrations. Based on the survey, it has been found that not many of the existing dictionaries engage graphic demonstrations authentically. There were found a lot more discrepancies in Urdu dictionaries regarding the use of pictorial illustrations. The study concludes that ostensive addressing is a crucial lexicographical device to assist the lexicographer magnanimously to communicate all the requisite constituents and facets of headwords (lemmas).

Keywords:

Pictorial Illustration Monolingual Dictionary Urdu Graphical Demonstration Meanings and Sense Relations

Introduction:

Each word possesses a particular structure and form. With the intention of intelligibility and interpretation of different shapes of words, their proper sequence, and their synonyms, the dictionaries are brought into being. Dictionaries provide words but lack in usage. Most of the words are scholarly items and are in sparing use of mere scholars and philosophers. A dictionary is an invaluable resource of vocabulary building. Pictures are of paramount significance and interest to the dictionary users. A pictorial illustration adds to the semantic value of a lexical item. A large number of illustrated entries are usually concrete nouns (Al-Kasimi 1977, Nesi 1989). This study addresses the issue of embedding of pictorial illustrations in Urdu dictionaries available on the market. There are some words which ask for illustrations in order to make their sense clear. Pictorial illustration definitely aids in giving clear concept of words and enhances word sense disambiguation as the graphic demonstrations are easier to comprehend than complexities of words. Each word possesses a particular structure and form. With the intention of intelligibility and interpretations of different shapes of words, their proper sequence, and their synonyms, the dictionaries are brought into being. Dictionaries provide words but lack in usage. Most of the words are scholarly items and are in sparing use of mere scholars and philosophers. The use of pictorial illustrations, according to

Al-Kasimi (1977), should not be arbitrary and incidental. Meaning recognition job is made easy with graphic illustrations.

It is true that pictures help a lot in conveying as claimed by Nesi (1998). Meaning retention is really facilitated only where the verbal and pictorial illustrations complement each other.

Pictorial illustrations in dictionaries are widely and innovatively used these days. Hartmann (1999) stresses that illustrative material has become more closely integrated into the text of MLDs. He asserts that these pictorial illustrations include:

a-   Pictures identifying spatial or temporal concepts

b-   Relatedness of meanings of polysemous words

c-   Context free confusables

d-   Literal and metaphorical meanings of words

e-   Cultural stereotypes

f-   Events and actions

The use of pictorial illustrations leaves no room for the learners for any misinterpretation and ambiguity of meaning.

| PICTORIAL ILLUSTRATION | + | A PICTURE | + | VERBAL MODIFIER |

Figure.1

Pictures are of paramount significance and interest to the potential dictionary users. An analysis of Urdu dictionaries shows that a few of available dictionaries make the real use of pictorial illustrations in actual sense.

Research Questions:

RQ1. Are the pictorial illustrations clear enough to communicate the meanings of lexical items?

RQ2. Do the definitions of dictionary entries support the pictorial illustrations?

Advantages of Pictorial Illustration:

The study will provide a direction to the dictionary compilers to improve the standard and contents of Urdu dictionaries in terms of pictorial illustrations. A good dictionary will whenever necessary show you how the word is used. Pictorial

illustrations add to giving clear concepts of words and enhance word sense disambiguation as the pictures are easier to understand and comprehend meanings as compared to complex explanation of words. Following are the major advantages of pictorial illustrations:

1- The use of pictures arouses the readers' and learners' curiosity and interest.

2- Pictures are really very effective in enhancing readers' vocabulary items.

3- Pictures are easy to remember than lexical items.

4- Pictorial illustrations also serve the purpose of aesthetic pleasure.

5- A pictorial illustration can discriminate among different senses of a lexical item.

Review of the Related Literature:

Pictorial illustrations other than online or digital dictionaries have also established a presence in paper lexicography. It is generally not possible to give pictorial illustrations of all the lexical items in a dictionary. Stein (1991) gives a detailed list of lexical items for pictorial illustrations, based on her analysis of English learners' dictionaries.

Princeloo (2016), it is a well known fact in lexicographic circles that no single dictionary is everything for everyone. Of the five senses sight plays a dominant part in the cognitive and linguistic development of human mind (Stein 1991). The function of illustrations has been considered excluding tables and diagrams contrary to Ilson (1987). The pictorial illustration, usually, is placed in front of the word to be defined, catching the full width of the column and it lacks separation by a line from the preceding and from the following text.

The effectiveness of pictorial illustrations, delivering the meaning of objects, has been investigated by Nesi (1998). The learners identified the correct objects illustrated with pictures. Her results indicate that verbal modifier of meaning would benefit from the inclusion of pictorial illustrations. Pictures aid with quick recognition of vocabulary items, as being the primary function of dictionaries, is also supported by Nesi (1998). The presence of pictures increases and promotes vocabulary acquisition, as experimented by Gumkowska's (2008) study.

Liu (2015) advocates a semantic ecology of multimodal definition, created by verbal and visual lexicographic tools represented by animations, chart schemes,

drawings, graphs and photos. Some pictorial illustrations ask for colorful presentations. Al-Kasimi (1977:102) states that in order to make pictorial illustration precise and accurate the effective devices are:

a. The use of arrows.

b. Abatement of irrelevant information in pictures.

c. Color cues.

d. Position cues.

e. Identifying numbers and captions.

As illustrations are effective the lexicographers should include a handy amount of pictures in dictionaries. Illustrations in dictionaries are usually expensive and make the dictionary bulky. Iconic pictures can be very useful to facilitate the meaning of concrete objects. There are words, as evidenced by Coffey (2006), which leave the readers dissatisfied with their treatment in dictionaries.

Moon (2002) Dictionaries are esteemed, and important not just as providers of information about the lexicon, but also rhetorically and discoursally. All dictionaries are fallible and perpetuate or create ideologies. She also advocates the inclusion of verbal modifier with pictorial illustration. The appropriate use of verbal modifiers and pictorial illustrations in dictionaries, according to Ganglia (2001), is not prominent in lexicographic literature.

A pictorial illustration prompts a jiffy response in the reader and it helps grasp the intended meaning within no time. Pictorial illustration here stands as picture with illustration or explanation to prove the existence of the word and its particular meaning (sense discrimination). As Cowie (1978) stresses that the multifunctionality of illustrative examples has increased the importance of verbal and pictorial illustrations. The verbal modifier which goes with the pictorial illustration should be expanded with it. They are particular means to enhance sense disambiguation (Hupka 1989 & Gangla 2001).

Iqbal (1987) conducted a study on advanced Pakistani learners with reference to English dictionary usage skills. He stresses the significance of illustrations in dictionaries and claims that in any dictionary for Pakistani learners the importance of illustrative examples cannot be underestimated. It is quite encouraging that all the learners' dictionaries currently available on the market seem to be aware of the

need to provide illustrative examples, though in varying degree.

Klosa (2015: 516) defines lexicographic illustration as "an illustration is a particular kind of image which is used in conjunction with a text and which decorates, illustrates, or explains the text". Kemmer (2014a, 2014b) specifically focuses s on the dictionary entries with regard to the interrelationship of verbal and pictorial illustrations. She conducted a study on 38 German students with two entries from dictionary. She expected that the learners would be attracted towards the pictures first and then they would turn their gaze to definitions of words. Her study found that definitions were not ignored. Lexicographers realized that the criteria for inclusion of pictorial illustrations in dictionaries differ on the basis of the cultural and social conditions.

Method:

As this research is to evaluate the use of pictorial illustrations in Urdu dictionaries, the deductive approach has been employed. To determine the extent and purpose of illustrations in monolingual Urdu dictionaries, a dictionary survey based on Stein (1991) was done. Stein (1991:106) distinguishes four main types of illustrations in dictionaries as mentioned in the table:

Types of Pictorial Illustrations by Stein (1991)

No.	Types of Illustrations as described by Stein (1991)
1.	Illustrations showing common animals, objects, plants
2.	Illustrations showing things that are not easily explained in words, such as shapes, complex actions, or small differences between words which are similar but not the same.
3.	Illustrations dipicting groups of related objects. These explain the differences between similar objects show the range of shapes and forms covered by a particular word and serve as an important aid to vocabulary expansion.
4.	Illustrations showing the basic or physical meeting of words that are commonly used in an abstract or figurative way.

The sample dictionaries have been singled out and scanned to find any pictorial illustrations. To find which type of entries are usually illustrated Stein's (1991 typology has been employed. The following Urdu dictionaries have been researched.

1.   Feroz-ul-Lughat   2. Azhar-ul-Lughat   3. Ilmi Urdu Lughat

4. Urdu Lughat Jamei   5. Aina-e-Urdu Lughat   6. Jahangir Urdu Lughat

7. Jawahir-ul-Lughat   8. Rabia Urdu Lughat   9. Noor-ul-Lughat

10. Farhang-e-Asafia

Of the ten dictionaries scanned only two dictionaries (Azhar-ul-Lughaat & Rabia Urdu Lughat) employed the use of pictorial illustrations.

Figure .2   **Azhar-ul-Lughaat**   **Rabia Urdu Lughat**

Azhar-ul-Lughaat covers a wide range of picture illustrations throughout whereas Rabia Urdu Lughat carries a few pictorial illustrations. These illustrations may serve the purpose of a useful guide for learners to understand the meanings and comprehensions of different lexical items

Findings and Discussion:

There are a lot more discrepancies in monolingual Urdu dictionaries regarding pictorial illustrations. The treatment of pictorial illustrations is extremely misleading and not up to the mark.

Presence/Absence of Pictorial Illustrations in Urdu Dictionaries

Title of Dictionary	Common animals, objects, plants	Not easily explained in words	Groups of related objects	The basic or physical meaning of words
Feroz-ul-Lughat	None	None	None	None
Azhar-ul-Lughat	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Ilmi Urdu Lughat	None	None	None	None
Urdu Lughat Jamei	None	None	None	None
Farhang-e-Asafia	None	None	None	None
Noor-ul-Lughat	None	None	None	None
Jawahir-ul-Lughat	None	None	None	None
Rabia Urdu Lughat	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jahangir Urdu Lughat	None	None	None	None
Aina-e-Urdu-Lughat	None	None	None	None

This study reveals interesting results that pictorial illustrations provided in Urdu dictionaries are ineffective and insufficient as the dictionary users go astray and get confused. There are plenty of evidences that pictorial illustrations are not clear enough to communicate the meanings of lexical items.

Figure .3

It is clear that verbal illustrations or definitions do not complement the pictorial illustrations. Illustrations fall short of meaning recognition process. There is no correspondence between pictorial illustrations and their captions which causes ambiguity of meaning and misinterpretations.

Figure .4

Sense discriminations are illustrated. One obvious drawback of these illustrations is lack of sense discrimination though these are supposed to enhance sense disambiguation (Gangla 2001).
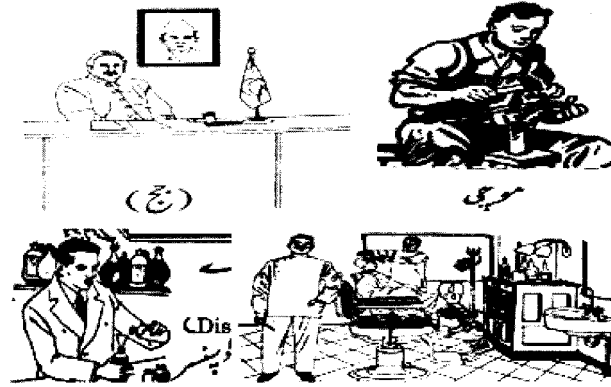

Figure .5

Visual images are often associated with professions according to their work context. But the illustrations show entirely different associations.
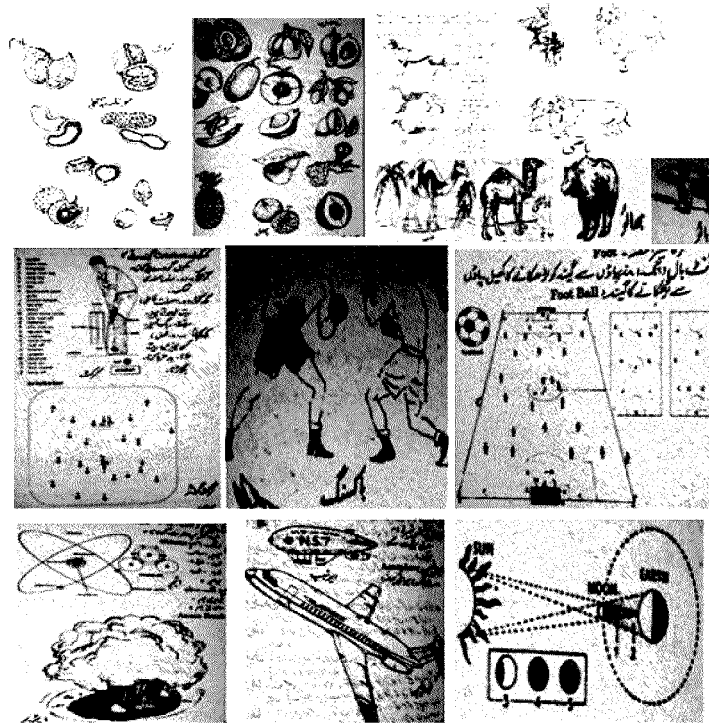

Figure .6

Some entries are related to proper names, plants, places, animals, games, machines and scientific devices. Pictorial illustrations tend to present irrelevant details. By contrast, pictorial illustrations in Azhar-ul-Lughaat occupy less than half a column in some cases, a full column in some cases or spread over two columns.
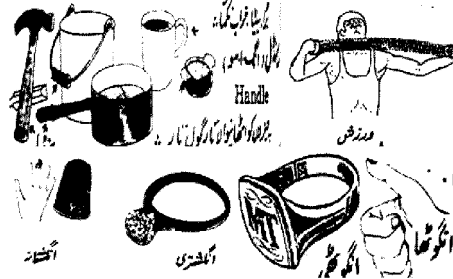

Figure .7

The illustration gives the object with another object as that of metonymic relation to bring out the objects' function and use.
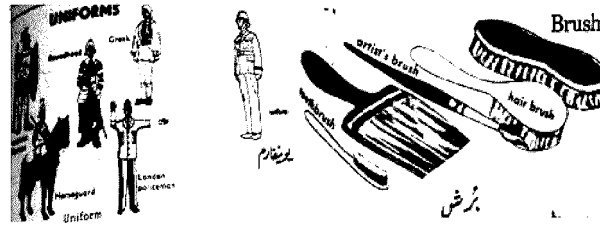

Figure .8

Semantically closely relatedness of objects usually concrete nouns (where the purpose is the same and/or different) and number of co-hyponyms are illustrated.
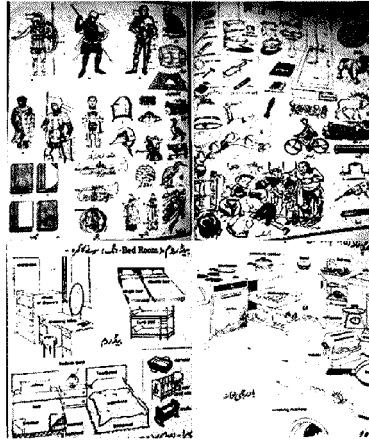

Figure .9

The illustrations denoting a collection of objects, e.g. fruit, luggage.

Based on Stein's (1991) survey, there is a relationship between the categories that he provides and actually illustrated in Azhar-ul-Lughaat and Rabia Urdu Lughat. The lexical items which are illustrated include birds, animals, and objects; and they fall under Stein's 1st category of inclusion of illustrations.

The illustrations are neither simple nor precise. The illustrations do not have transparency and cannot be distinctive easily. The illustrations in both of these Urdu dictionaries do not fulfill the scale, put forward by Al-Kasimi (1977), for pictorial illustrations.

The illustrations are not compact and have no fidelity with realistic pictures or objects. The intended message is also not comprehended with ease and comfort. The use of captions fails to make the illustrations complete. The inappropriate size makes the pictorial illustrations vague and unclear.

Based on the findings of this study it can be asserted that pictorial illustrations in Urdu dictionaries are not dealt appropriately. These dictionaries do not provide a good deal of meaning descriptions in their target pictorial illustrations. Shah & Iqbal (2014) claim that no single dictionary can be claimed as the work par with the tradition of modern lexicography. The handling of pictorial illustrations in these dictionaries is so vague that it demands a proper context. The actualizing verbal elements are called captions. Treatment of semantic relations is also not properly described in monolingual Urdu dictionaries. In a lot of text types semiotic analyses have been made on pictures and visuals but their use in Urdu dictionaries has been ignored.

Recommendation:

- The implementation of including pictorial illustrations in Urdu dictionaries demands many editorial decisions.
- It is a regrettable fact that no study on monolingual Urdu Dictionaries took up the topic under consideration for research.
- The effectiveness of methods used in describing pictorial illustrations in Urdu dictionaries needs revision and rectification.
- Sense explanations (discriminations) should be appropriately handled.
- For meaning retention purpose the pictorial illustrations should be supported

with adequate verbal illustrations as well.

- The presentation mode of pictorial illustrations should be altered. Color schemes should be added.

- Polysemous entries have not been entertained in terms of pictorial illustrations. The lexicographers and compilers should take this into account while compiling a dictionary.

- Schematic graphs should be included to represent the meaning of prepositions As Adamska-Sa?aciak (2008) advocates.

- The study provides a strong recommendation that pictorial illustrations should be given a special attention in Urdu dictionaries as it would help learners decrease sense ambiguities as Ahmad and Iqbal (2010) believe.

- The pictorial illustrations should be cross referenced so that the user might not overlook the visual information.

- As modern lexicographic device pictorial illustrations should be employed systematically in monolingual Urdu dictionaries.

- The dictionary compiler must have substantial knowledge about the significance and usage of visual images and pictures as necessary component of the dictionary.

Conclusion:

The importance of the appropriate use of pictorial illustrations along with their verbal modifiers in Urdu dictionaries is not dealt seriously. This analysis reflected on the disposal of the demonstrations. Based on the survey, it has been found that not many of the existing dictionaries engage graphic demonstrations authentically. There were found a lot more discrepancies in Urdu dictionaries regarding pictorial illustrations. The proper and relevant use of Pictorial illustrations should be given a special attention in dictionaries as it leaves no room for the learners to uncloud the ambivalences and the misunderstandings of meaning and sense relations. The study would definitely provide a direction to the publishers and lexicographers to improve the standard and contents of dictionaries. The study concludes that ostensive addressing is a crucial lexicographical device to assist the lexicographer magnanimously to communicate all the requisite constituents and facets of headwords (lemmas). In this way, it attributes

substantially to cause the dictionary a handy expedient. Illustrations could be found from corpus i.e. there should be a pictorial repository for lexicographers. Pictorial illustrations should follow rules of modern lexicography and should bear iconic resemblance with the objects in the real world. Illustrative examples are an optional rather than an obligatory element of the microstructure. The lexicographers need to define a specific and precise criterion for the inclusion of pictorial illustrations in monolingual Urdu dictionaries.

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