

A Comprehensive Study: Prosodic Features of Kashmiri Dialect of Maraaz (Anantnag)

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Abstract - Dialectology deals with the scientific study of dialects. A dialect is a variation in any language that is used by people of any region. Besides the regional dialect that is created due to geographical barrier, dialect arises because of social differences between people, leading to the variation in the way they speak and the vocabulary they use. This paper has its focus on studying the difference between the Kashmiri spoken in few regions of South Kashmir's Anantnag district. Since we know that the type of language and vocabulary, we use has high influence of what profession we belong to. This work will look into this aspect of language as well. It assesses the variation in usage of language in different contexts. Use of vocabulary will differ from situation to situation providing an insight into the type of context a person is speaking in i.e., whether formal or informal, public or private.

Indexed Terms- Kashmiri language; Dialect; Sanskritised; Persianised; Variation

I. INTRODUCTION

The most important way of communication between humans is language. We use a particular set of word formations that the other person understands making him know what exactly a person wants to convey. The scientific study of languages is known as linguistics. There is a lot of languages that people speak all over the world and each of this language takes different forms depending on the geographical regions of the people who speak it. These forms are known as dialects and this study is known as dialectology. To study dialects one of the methods used for data collection is to manually make people fill a questionnaire about the differences in language people speak belonging to a particular region. This method was not used for some time but has seen a comeback once again. Dialect is affected by some factors like:

Lexicon, Intonation, Rhythm, Age, Personality, Social class. Mother Tongue Influence (MTI). MTI is the influence of a person's mother tongue on other languages that he speaks. There are three main approaches to study dialects. These are as; 1. Lexical variation: It involves the analysis of vocabulary used. Different words used like biscuits and cookies; both mean the same entity but are used in

American and British English respectively. 2. Phonological variation: It involves the analysis of pronunciation of words e.g., "water", spoken as "wader" by the Americans and "wo-tah" by the Britishers 3. Grammatical variation: It involves the use of phrases and sentence construction. For example, the sentences used in negative sense in some parts are used a positive in other parts. Kashmiri language is a mixture of different languages like Persian, Arabic, Sanskrit. It is said to be a Dardic language i.e., the spoken in upper areas of Indus and is a subgroup of Indo-Aryan languages. The speakers of this language are mainly the people living in Kashmir valley and parts of Jammu and Kishtwar. The language is mainly into divided into Persianised and Sanskritised Kashmiri. Some commonly used words are:

1. For water Sanskritised kashmiri: "poien". Persianised kashmiri: "aab" 2. For washing hands Sanskritised kashmiri: "athi chalin" Persianised kashmiri: "athi piethravi" The aim of this project is to work on the regional dialects of south Kashmir's Anantnag district. There are a lot of differences between the Kashmiri of this district and the one spoken in Srinagar which is taken as a standard. The differences are in grammar, pronunciation, use of alternative terms, etc. Since there has not been too immense work in this domain, the focus will be to find the visible differences in the language usage among people of different regions. 3 The dialect spoken by

Kashmiri Muslims has an impression of Persian and Arabic in it and the one spoken by Hindus has an influence of Sanskrit in it, eg. the Muslim Kashmiri uses the term “khoda” for God whereas Hindu Kashmiri uses “baghvan” for God. Kashmiri language has some of its origin from Vedic Sanskrit and therefore the words of this language are rarely seen in any other language of the country. Also, the outcome of professional diversity on the language of people belonging to same region will be taken into consideration

II. METHODS

Materials used o Mobile phone or recording device o Audio recording and shearing applications. The methodology used for this project is the collection and analysis of recorded samples. The samples were obtained from people of different regions of the district like Brad, Utterasoo, main town Anantnag, etc using call recordings, voice recordings. The assessment is done manually. The areas included are as following: 1) Way of speaking particular words: It includes the pronunciation and rhythm of saying a single word in multiple ways. 2) Different words used for a same entity: It involves the usage of alternative words for one single thing. 3) Alternative vocabulary uses in similar situations. o Intonation patterns. 4) Professional usage of vocabulary. Also, on call interviewing has been used in certain cases. The person providing the sample is asked about certain words and their respective pronunciations.

III. OBSERVATIONS

Some of the alternate words used for same entity are given below:

Reference	Utterasoo and nearby regions	Brad and nearby regions
Chai trav	Chai trav	Chai phir
Zuu wandai	Balailagai	Balailagai
Daej	Baengeid	Daej
Khatri	Kahar	Warya
Beav	Beaved	Beav

There is a pronounced difference seen in the pronunciation of speaking a word in these regions. For example

Reference	Utterasoo and nearby regions	Brad and nearby regions
Mukur	Mokur	Mukur
Utra	Autra	Utra
Aane	Aeinyav	Anyav
Raet	Raetyayas	Ratyayas
Bronthei	Brunhii	Bronthei
Doilati	Doeilati	Doilati
Trounas	Trounes	Trounas
Yaakh	Yakh	Yaakh
Dapan chi	Dan chi	Dapan chi
Wann	Waen	Wann
Tohi	Tohoi	Tohi

There is use of words related to certain fields suggesting a profession like:

- i. Software
- ii. Word
- iii. CV
- iv. Editable
- v. Bear
- vi. Scat
- vii. Dear
- viii. Pellet
- ix. Genomics
- x. Wildlife sanctuary
- xi. Research papers
- xii. College
- xiii. Eligible
- xiv. University
- xv. Masters
- xvi. Submission
- xvii. Diploma
- xviii. Assignments

IV. RESULT

From the analysis of samples, it is clear that the regions taken into consideration do have a variation in their pronunciation and rhythm of speaking. The dialects

are varied due to regional differences and educational background of the speaker. The old Kashmiri words were hardly used by younger generation. Moreover, the use of vocabulary in different conditions is also different depending upon the context. It is also evident from the analysis that there is a profound touch of English language on Kashmiri. Also, a tint of dialect convergence is seen between the reference dialect and the one used in Mattan Tehsil region. Dialect divergence is seen between other two regions

We know that the dialects are different forms of a language spoken by different geographical regions. 70% - 80% of people in Anantnag speak Kashmiri language and rest of the population speaks other languages like pahari, gojri, etc. Moreover, a person's education, family background, profession, etc matter a lot when it comes to the way of speaking and the choice of words he makes. In addition, age group plays an important role in determining how and what a person speaks. For example, the analysis of people from older age groups used words like "aadnuk yaar", "muoen gaash", "Waan" for shop, which are rarely used by the young generation. Most of the younger people use Urdu and English sentences during their conversation. If the sentences are not used frequently but English words mingle in the language as if they are a part of it. Also, there is a profound impact of cultures on the language of people. The people belonging to higher altitude regions, usually of gujjar bakarwal communities speak kashmiri in a very different manner. Their pronunciation varies significantly as they speak most of the words increasing the length of words. One more thing that is crucial in studying dialects is the context i.e., there is a particular type of vocabulary and grammar used in different situations depending on who the person is talking to. In some cases, the context of the conversation being personal, the way a child speaks is used to create a sense of closeness and connection.

The used of professional terminology provides an indication of what a person might be doing in terms of education. The words used show that the people speaking are talking something about wildlife, college work and technical stuff.

Since we know that the use of language is one common thing in between humans but the way we use it makes it one's unique trait. The forensic significance of dialect analysis comes into the picture in cases of abduction, rape, murder, threatening calls, etc. It helps the investigating agencies to narrow down the location or dwelling place of a suspect based on his language variation. Also, the work he does for his living can be inferred from the language usage i.e., vocabulary, grammar, tone, etc. More importantly in some cases the victims help to get to the suspect by giving a recognition to a person whether he was present on the crime scene or not based on the way the suspect speaks. In case of highly intellectual and smart criminals the linguistic analysis can reveal if there is any secret message given to a particular person using specific code words. Moreover, the dialects used by people of different religions are different thereby giving a hint about religious background of a person. The analysis of language of a person can eliminate him as a suspect.

CONCLUSION

Overall, this project gave an overview of how languages vary over a range of geographical distance being affected by educational and social backgrounds of people. The differences being minute at certain points might get skipped but they do exist and give each variation a profound significance in its own way. It is important to note that no dialect is superior or inferior from the other, however, learning to speak a standard dialect can prove to be beneficial for people especially student community.

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