

Phonological Study of the Panchali (Poguli/Khah) Language

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Abstract

Panchali is an Indo-Aryan language spoken in Pir Panchal region of Jammu and Kashmir. It has various alternate names as Poguli, Khah, Pogali, Banihali, Khashali, Pugij, Khash Paristani, Pogli, Makerkoti, Vanshali and Banhali. But now Panchali has been kept its name. It has 2,00,000 speakers. It is bordered in the east by Kishtwari and Bhaderwahi, in the west by Pahari and Gojri, in the south by Dogri, and in the north by Kashmiri.

This paper aims at providing a basic sketch of Panchali phonology based on the field surveys done by the author from different areas of Pirpanchal range, primarily of Ramban district. This paper is the first attempt which highlights the phonological system of Panchali language in detail. The paper begins with presenting an inventory of Panchali sounds. In it the consonants, vowels, consonant clusters, vowel sequences, consonant sequences, syllables and tones are discussed.

Keywords: Indo-Aryan, Panchali, pogli khah speakers, phonology inventory, consonants tones

Introduction

Jammu and Kashmir has diversity of languages belonging to different language families. Panchali is one of the Indo-Aryan languages spoken in Pir Panchal belt of Jammu and Kashmir. It has been classified as regional dialect of Kashmiri spoken outside the valley of Kashmir. Various researches have shown its speakers from five to thirty thousand speakers, but as per my survey it has more than two lakh speakers scattered all over the world.

After the early sketches by Bailey (1908), Grierson (1919) and others, Panchali received little attention from linguistics. It is neglected by local linguists also despite the fact that in most of the villages of Ramban district, the literacy rate is hundred per cent. No

detailed survey has been done so far despite having so many schemes for protection and preservation of endangered and lesser known languages.

Review of Literature

No detailed study has been done on this language. A local linguist Mohd Iqbal Naik in his book in Urdu *pogli zuban ka sutiyaati nizaam*, has presented some information and has discussed some important aspects of this language. Another writer Maneera Marghoob in her book in Kashmiri *kashrich qadeem ta aham boel-pogli* has also discussed some important features of this language but she has used Kashmiri more and Pogli less. An article by me *khah rasmul khat* regarding the script of this language was published in 2012 in the magazine Aabshaar of Pir Panchal Adbi Forum *Banihal*. All these works lack in one way or the other adequate information on various aspects of the language. So, this research is designed to highlight the phonological features of Panchali language in some detailed fashion.

Methodology

For the purpose of descriptive study of Panchali language the researcher surveyed different areas of Pir Panchal range and consulted local writers along with different peoples and recorded their sounds of different letters. Questionnaire was also framed for this purpose. Some published works of this language were also studied.

Description of Phonemes

Panchali has (59) fifty-nine phonemes - (49) forty-nine are segmental and (10) ten are suprasegmental phonemes. Besides, Panchali in original script uses these Hindi/Urdu phonemes as (q t f s z x gh ɐ).

Consonants

Panchali has (35) thirty-five consonants. The inventory of the consonants is given in table 1 below:

type	place	manner	Sound symbol	Initial	medial	Final
Stop	bilabial	Vl. un-asp.	p	Pan leaves	Napnu to shine	Na:p measurement
		Vd. Un-asp	b	Bar door	ḍubnu to sink	rab mud

		VI. asp	ph	Phal fruit	Pupha:yeh father's sister's husband	Saraph snake
		Vd. asp	bh	Bharnu to fill	ga:bhrunu to fear	-----
	dental	VI.un-asp	t	tan skin	Va:tnu to reach	Lat foot
		Vd.un-asp	d	du:s sun	Sudnu to bury	Tshad call
		VI. asp	th	tham pillar	Mathnu to polish	Buth face
		Vd. asp	dh	dhãvnu to walk	nyadhəɽ backwall	=====
	retroflex	VI.un-asp	ʈ	ʈa:l̪nu to pretend	tʂaʈnu to cut	uʈ jump
		Vd.un-asp	ɖ	ɖa:l branch	uɖnu to fly	iɖ belly
		VI. asp	ʈh	ʈha:n lid	Ka:ʈheh firewood	ra:ʈh creeper/relative
		Vd. asp	ɖh	ɖhyul loose	=====	=====
	velar	VI.un-asp	K	Kan ear	lakɽi wood	ʃak doubt
		Vd.un-asp	g	gãv cow	mãgnu to beg	Na:g spring
		VI. Asp	Kh	Khur foot	A:kha:ɽeh arena	Ha:kh vegetable
		Vd. asp	gh	ghraʈ mill	=====	sĩgh singh
Affricate	dental	VI.un-asp	ts	Tsam skin	Atsnu to enter	pã:ts five
		VI. asp	tsh	Tshi:l goat	gatshnu to go	Latsh garbage
	palatal	VI.un-asp	ʃ	ʃiʈh letter	aʃeh day before yesterday	mufʃ urine

		Vd.un-asp	ɖʒ	ɖʒa:l net	adʒal death	ta:ɖʒ crown
		VI. Asp	ʃh	ʃhat roof	aʃhuɾ walnut	da:ʃh sickle
		Vd. asp	ɖʒh	ɖʒhādeh flag	samdʒhu:nu to understand	Bu:ɖʒh enquiry
Fricative	Alveolar	VI.un-asp	S	s>n gold	Asan to us	s>:s ashes
		Vd.un-asp	Z	Zalnu to burn	Uzmulni lightning	A:z today
		Vd. asp	zh	zhaɾnu to fall	Zizhur bush	=====
	palatal	VI.un-asp	ʃ	ʃa:l lion	maʃnu to forget	g>:ʃ light
	glottal	vi.un-asp	h	Hasnu to laugh	rahnu to live	Ba:h twelve
Trill	alveolar	Vd.un-asp	r	raz rope	Marnu to die	Ka:r work
Flap	retroflex	Vd.un-asp	ɽ	=====	puɽnu to fight	kukuɽ cock
		Vd. asp	ɽh	=====	paɽhnu to read	dəɽh beard
Lateral	alveolar	Vd.un-asp	l	l>ɽ head	g>lam wheat	Na:l color
Nasal	bilabial	Vd.un-asp	m	Ma:z meat	Lamnu to pull	Nam nail
	alveolar	Vd.un-asp	n	Namnu to lean	A:n nu to bring	ɖʒ>:n alright
Semivowel	bilabial	Vd.un-asp	v	vaɽnu to close	Bivalnu to make fear	ãv i
	palatal	Vd.un-asp	y	Yaleh free/when	Phyaran pheran	Na:y navel

Classification of Consonants

The consonants of Panchali have been classified on the basis of two major criteria:

1. the point of articulation and
2. the manner of articulation

On this basis, Panchali language present the seven-way contrast in the manner of articulation viz. bilabial, dental, alveolar, retroflex, palatal, velar and glottal. The manner of articulation is also divided into eight groups on the basis of degree of closure of air stream as stops affricate fricative trill flap lateral nasal and semivowel.

Panchali has sixteen (16) stops, six (6) affricates, five (5) fricatives, one trill, two flaps, one lateral, two nasals and two semivowels. There are four (4) stops in each set presenting the four-way contrast in the point of articulation and four-way contrasts in the manner of articulation in respect of voicing and aspiration. Panchali consonants show two-way contrasts with regard to voicing-voiced and voiceless consonants. There are twenty (20) voiced and fifteen (15) voiceless consonants. Panchali consonants also show two contrasts with regard to aspiration - aspirated and un aspirated consonants. Panchali has thirteen (13) aspirated and twenty-two (22) unaspirated consonants.

Distribution of Consonants

In Panchali, consonants occur in all the three positions with a few exceptions. Table 1 shows the exception in the case of retroflex flap (ɽ) and (ɽh) which occur in medial and final positions only. The retroflex voiced aspirated stop /ɽh/ does not occur in the medial and final positions of words. The bilabial stop /bh/ and dental stop /dh/ do not occur in final position of words. The velar stop /gh/ does not occur in medial position. It occurs in final position only in zhe names of Hindus, e.g., Singh. The fricative zh which is a special consonant, not present in any other language, do not occur in the final position of words. It should not be confused with the sound /Ts/ or /Dzh/.

Consonant Clusters

Panchali consonants consists of the sequence of two consonants or more which occur initially, inter vocally and finally. There are some restrictions in the formation of consonant clusters which are as, two aspirated consonants do not combine to form a consonant cluster and /ɽ/ and /ɽh/ do not come in initial position.

Word Initial Consonant Clusters

The first consonant can be stop affricate fricative or any other except flap. The initial consonant clusters are not frequent as the word medial consonant clusters, most of the initial

consonant clusters are the combination of consonant and semivowel, e.g., (p b ph bh t d dh th ð th ðh k g gh kh ts tsh tsh dz dzh s zh r l m n)+r/v/y

clus ter	Word with meaning	clus ter	Word with meaning	cl us te r	Word with meaning	clus ter	Word with meaning
Pr	Pra:n leek	phr	Phrast poplar	br	brāḍ a tree	bhr	Bhraḥ:phnu To eat
tr	traṭ cloud burst	thr	thras fall	dr	dramun plane	dhr	dhraṭnu to pull
ḍr	ḍra:meh drama	ṭr	ṭrūk trunk	ḍ h y	ḍhyal dust particles	ṭhv	ṭhvand height
kr	Kra:l potter	khr	Khra:v paddle	gr	grād counting	ghr	ghraṭ mill
tsr	Tsrat slap	tshv	Tshvalnu to peel	zr	Zra:n ripe	zhr	zhrāḍ ditch
ḍʒv	ḍʒva:n ok	zhv	Zhvuəl nap	tʃr	tʃring chring sound	zy	Zyarnu to bear
ʃr	ʃrapnu to absorb	rv	rvaṭ a type of food	lv	lvaṭ head	my	Myūd leporsy
ny	Nya:s part of door	gry	Gryu:s villager				

Word Medial Consonant Clusters

Most of the consonant clusters are formed across syllable or morpheme boundaries. There is a large list of words medial consonant clusters but some of which may be given below.

Cluster	Word with meaning	cluster	Word with meaning	cluster	Word with meaning	cluster	Word with meaning
Hb	Mahbub loved	Rb	Kurba:n sacrifice	sv	rusva separation	zm	Uzmulni lightning
Rd	garduən neck	Rv	darvazeh door	lk	Halkeh light	hdz	Muhta:dz dependent
nd	mandāv room	Gt	sāgtar orange	ɽhm	kuɽhmən woman	dhr	Sudhrunu to socialize
Dr	Kudrat nature	df	Ba:dfah king	ɽhɽ	gaɽhɽi pack	rnn	Khatarna:k dangerous
Sm	Asma:n sky	Pht	Haphteh week	St	Sasteh cheap	kr	əkra:m respect
Kd	Hakda:r deserving	kt	Maktab school	kb	Makbu:l famous	dm	Badma:f bad man
Bn	fabnam dew	phv	Aphvah rumour	phr	Naphrat hate	bz	Sabzi vegetables
Hn	Pihnu to grind	ks	Nuksa:n loss	gv	Bhagva:n god	ɽk	aɽkan vasket
Mb	Ambar plenty	Md	Namdeh namda	nd	gādeh onion	mv	Bhumva:r Tuesday
nɽ	ghənɽi bell	nd	dzādeh flag	ns	Insa:ph justice	sp	Haspata:l hospital
Sb	Kasbeh town	Tshn	gatshnu to go	tm	Satmu seventh	ɽn	tσαɽnu to cut
Bhr	Ubhrunu to raise	vɽ	Bana:vɽi show	nn	Gin nu to buy	fm	dufman enemy
fv	rifvat bribe	lth	galthi mistake	lɽ	ulɽeh against	phl	gaphlat negligence
Phs	Aphso:s sorry	ps	Va:psi return	ɽn	mandnu to take bath	khn	Likhnu to write

ʃn	maʃnu to forget	ʃn	Muʃnu to urinate	ʃk	muʃkil hard	ks	ruksat leave
Yv	Payvand grafting	yd	Pa:yda:r strong	vɾ	pavɾi ladder	hv	vahvəɾ illwill
Pt	kapɽunu to cut clothes	ʃɾ	kitʃɾi pulao	pɾ	ʃapɾəs peon	ɾht	paɾhtu read

Zm	Uzmeh borrow	In	Tshvalnu to scrape	Thn	Mathnu to polish	ɾd	m>ɾdeh dead
ɾph	taɾphunu to cry	ɾt	puɾtu fought	phn	õphnu to fly	ɾph	taɾphi missing
Np	anpaɾh illiterate	mn	Namnu to bow	Kn	dʒhuknu to lean	dʒb	madʒbu:r difficulty
Tr	g>treh cattle	hk	Behkunu to mislead	mɽh	tsamɽhunu to shrink	Lb	Dilbar bold
Mts	Ka:mtso:r workthief	hn	Sa:hnu to forebear	Rg	Khargo:ʃ hair	dʒd	sadzdeh sajda
Dr	Mudru sweet	gɾ	pagɾi turban	mdʒh	samdʒhunu to understand	nd	mandar temple
Bhr	ga:bhrunu to fear	ʃht	paʃhta:vnu to repent	Mb	Lambeh long	sdʒ	masdʒid mosque
ɾk	taɾkaunu to stand	mt	ʃimtu catcher	Pt	Zaptun we told	ɽt	vaɽtun we folded
Vd	divda:r cedar	ʃhr	aʃhɾehkol walnut tree	Vr	Bavreh insane	Nzh	zhinzhoɾnu to shake
Tsn	Atsnu to enter	zk	Brizkunu to shine	Zn	Huznu to swell	Zy	Azyu:nu Hardliving

Word Medial Three Consonant Clusters

There are only limited numbers of consonant clusters of three consonants as compared to word medial two consonant clusters.

Ngd	Sangdil	stone hearted	rdg	Supurdgi	surrender
ngɽ	bangɽi	bangɽi bangle	ngl	Angli	finger
Ndr	Sandreh	tools	ngm	Sangmarmar	marble
Ntr	Antrumu	inner	htr	ʃahrtreh	iron
Ndg	Bandgi	service	ndn	mandnu	to take bath
ndʒr	pindʒreh	cage	ndn	gyanndnu	to play
Nphn	Onphnu	to fly	ntsm	Pantsmi	fifth

Word final consonant clusters are less frequent in Panchali.

nkh	ʃankh	nothing	nd	rund	stone	nts	Bha:nts	lute
ʃt	kaʃt	hardwork	nd	Band	close	nʃh	ganʃh	knot
st	Mast	intoxicated	mp	Ləmp	lamp	ndʒ	gondʒ	bald
ng	Rang	colour	nz	Kunz	key	nʃ	pəntʃ	panch
nk	Bənk	bank	nʃh	A:nʃh	part of sandal	ngh	Singh	name

Palatalization

It is phonemic in Panchali language. All the consonants can be palatalized.

Syllabic Structure

Panchali language has its own syllabic structure. All consonants can occur as an onset in the initial syllable of a word except flaps. The retroflex voiced aspirated stop /ɖh/ cannot occur in nucleus and coda. The bilabial /bh/, dental /dh/ and fricative /zh/ can never occur as coda in the words. Consonant clusters occur frequently in word medial positions.

Monosyllabic words

V a: yes, o: oh

Vc a:z today, as we,ãv I

Cv su he, mi i

Cvc ka:r work, kas who ,

Disyllabic words

- v-v a:v came,
vc-vc aph a;l verbs
vc-vc ulma religious scholors
vc-cvc a:htus I was,insa:n man,a;mteh came
cv-cvc gaguṛ rat,yuhun this,
cvc-cv galthei mistake, naḥnu to flee
cvc-cvc masdzid mosque,ma;ʃṭar teacher
v-cvc a;mot come, a;mət come,a:sun they wil be
cvc-cvv aəsnai they have

Trisyllabic

- Cvc-cvc-cvc badkhaslat bad natured
Cvc-cv-cv ḥamkunu to shine , ḥalkunu to shake
cv-cvc-cv ruka;vnu to stop,pa;ban di punctuality
cvc-cv-cvc badtami;z illmannered,likhtumot written
cv-cvc-cvc duka;nda;r shopkeeper,pagalpan madness
vc-vc-vcc a;ḥmaṭfeh brought,

Tetra syllabic

- cv-cv-cvc-cv paka;valnu to make someone to make food,
cv-cv-cv-cv baradari neighbourhood,vaphadəri loyalty
cv-cvc-cv-cv pekistəni Pakistani,
cvc-cvc-cv-cv duḥmandəri enmity,hindostəni hinustani
cvc-cvc-cv-cvc likhtehmateh written,kha;ltehmateh eaten,likhtḥmaṭfeh eaten
v-cvc-cv-cvc a;ḥmaṭfeh brought,
vc-cvc-cv-cvc a;stehmateh they have

Penta syllabic

- Cvc-cv-cvc-cv-cvc ga;bh rutehmateh frightened
cv-cvc-cvc-cv-cvc luthe;ḥmaṭfeh,luthe;ṭehmateh grinded

Vowels

Front un rounded			Initial	Medial	Final
high	Short	I	It here ikh ice	dil heart dik beak	Di two mi me

	Long	I:	I:s yesterday i:d eid	Tsi:r late ti:r arrow	Sardi: coolnes kursi: chair
mid	Short	e	ehtra:m respect ehsa:n kindnees	geh home sreh butter	=====
	Long	e:	e:la:n announcement e:tba:r trust	te:l oil me:z table	Ke: did ge: went
low	Short	==	=====	=====	=====
	Long	==	=====	=====	=====
			Central unrounded		
high	Short	==	=====	=====	=====
	long	===	=====	=====	=====
mid	Short	ɛ	ət there ən blind	gəʃ watch gəb sheep	Gə you go mə do not læ love
	long	ə:	=====	kə:kut lizard fə:put bear pə:puʃ butterfly	=====
low	Short	A	al pumpkin as we	Mak axe hak right	dava medicine gava witness
	long	a:	a:z today a:v he came	da:l pulse fa:l lion	Sa: sir Na: no
			Back rounded		
high	Short	U	uʃ jump un wool	Kut what but statue	Su he yu this
	long	U:	U:ʃ camel u:th to leak water of the roof	Ghu:ʃ horse pu:t grandson	Su: injection khu: nature
mid	Short	O	Obur cloudy or ok	Phol grain son deep/of	Jo he said go he went
	long	O:	O:ʃh lip o:l nest	Ko:r where tso:r thief	Ho: yes ko: he did
low	Short	>	=====	l>ʃ head d>d one and a half	Th> sapling m> donot(you)

	long	>:	=====	g>:d cowshed d>:n fireplace	=====
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Classification of Vowels

The vowels of Panchali can be classified on the basis of four major criteria, viz., the height of the tongue, the part of tongue involved, the position of the lips and the soft palate. According to this classification Panchali presents three-way contrast-front, central and back. There are fourteen (14) vowels in Panchali language. Four (4) are front, four (4) are central and six (6) are back vowels. According to the height to which the tongue is raised, the vowels put a three-way contrast as high, mid and low. In Panchali language, four (4) vowels are high, six (6) vowels are mid and four (4) are low vowels. According to the position of lips the vowels presents two-way contrast -- rounded and un-rounded. In Panchali language eight (8) vowels are unrounded and six (6) are rounded vowels. When we classify the vowels according to the position of soft palate or velum, the vowels present a two-way contrast viz., oral and nasal vowels. In Panchali, all vowels can be nasalized though not in all positions. It is represented by placing tilde (˜) over the vowel which is nasalized e.g., āv (i), gāv (cow) and ke:ṭs (some), etc.

Distribution of Vowels

The high central vowels are not present in Panchali language. The front mid short vowel /e/ do not occur in word final positions. The central mid long vowel /ə:/ and low back long vowel />:/ do not occur in initial and final position of words. The low back short vowel />/ do not occur in word initial positions.

Suprasegmental

Panchali language has ten suprasegmental phonemes. Out of which there are three junctures -- terminal juncture, phrase juncture and open juncture, four pitch levels-low, normal, high and extra high and three terminal contours-falling terminals, rising terminals and sustained terminals.

Length

There are seven pairs of short and long vowels. The following minimal pairs illustrate the contrast in the length of these vowels

i	rit month	I:	ri:t custom/tool
e	gel handle	e:	ge:l faint

ə	kəɽ shackles	ə:	Kə:ɽ expelled
u	Su he	U:	Su: injection
o	gol mouth	O:	go:l circle
a	Kan ear	A:	Ka:n ore
>	l>ɽ head	>:	l>:ɽ role

Stress

Stress is not a distinctive feature of Panchali language. However, since Panchali is a syllable timed language, sometimes individual letters and words are stressed for emphasis. The ordinary meaning of the sentence is changed with some special meaning by giving a stress, e.g.

Kut poɽh ʃu! kut ʃu poɽh ?

What beautiful is what is beautiful

What a beautiful is! What is beautiful?

Ruka:vi meh/ gatshni d'em ruka:vi/ meh gatshni d'em

You stop not go me stop not go me

Do not stop / let me go stop / donot let me go

Juncture

It is a way of breaking or placing a pause in the speech flow. It is of three types:

1. Terminal Juncture

It is heard at the end of a sentence. In writing, full stop is its counterpart. It is represented by double cross #.

ãv ʃhos ʃakna:ɽvah ra:hti# I live in Chacknarwah.

Yu ʃu yakh poɽhmot ga:m# it is one of the beautiful village.

Yəs thi takri:ban dah sa:s a:bə:di# it has almost ten thousand population.

2. Phrase Juncture

It is represented by single bar / e.g.

Lo:kh m> / poɽh

Do not write / read

L'ò:kh / m> poɽh

Read, do not read

3. Open Juncture

It is a slight break between phonemes and is represented by +. If there is no break it is closed juncture.

duka:n + da:r shopkeeper Na: + Layakh un worthy

di + ta + di+ geveh + tsa: var two and two makes four.

Intonation

It refers to the pattern produced by variations in pitch of voice during speech. It is used to indicate the attitudes and emotions of the speakers

Pitch Levels

There are two pitch levels: word level and sentence level.

Panchali is an intonational language because the pitch functions at sentence level.

Panchali has four pitch levels – low, normal, high, extra, and extra high.

Su1 fu2 akbar3

He is akbar

Su2 fu3 akbar1

Su2 fu3 akbar3

Su2 fu4 akbar3

Yu2 kam3 fu1

Who is he?

Terminal Contours

It is the contrast which indicate the rise or fall in the final pitch from last pitch level.

Three types of terminal contours are distinguished in Panchali language.

1. Falling Terminal

It indicates the lowering the pitch from the last pitch level and then fading away of the force of articulation .it is symbolized with an arrow pointing downward ↓

Su2 ka:r3 a:v1 ↓

When did he came?

A:~v bat kha:liti ffo:~s ↓

I am eating cooked rice.

Yuhur3 je1 ↓

Come here

2. Rising Terminal

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It indicates a slight increase in the intensity of pitch level but lower than the next pitch level. It is symbolized by arrow pointing upward ↑

Yu2 ʃu>3 akbar3 ↑?

Is this akbar?

Tu2 y>3 so3↑

Will you come?

3. Sustained Terminal

It indicates the suspension of the pitch of the voice at the same level instead of rising or falling. It is symbolized by horizontal arrow→

aʃha:3 → yaveh3 vneh1 ↓

yes just coming

yu2 uzlu3 ʃu> → ya:3 krehnu1 ↓

is this read or black?

Diphthong

The following diphthongs are used in Panchali.

Ai ----- gaib ge:b invisible

Au ----- kaunkut kə:kut lizard

Ae ----- laeʃ ləʃ tail

Ao ----- khaol khə:l you eat (plu.)

Oa ----- koar ko:r where

Ye----- gyeh geh home

Yo----- gyoh geoh home

Yu: ----- gyu:r geu:r faint

Yu ----- hyol hə:l topest part of maize plant

Ya ----- gyal geal stick

Va----- lvaʃ l>ʃ head

Va:/Vaa ----- gva:ʃ g>:ʃ light

Conclusion

From the above discussion it becomes clear that Panchali language has its own peculiarities. The presence of the unique sound like /zh/ fricative alveolar voiced aspirate which is not present in any Indo-Aryan language. There are good number of words with the vowel low back long />:/ whereas Kashmiri has only one; that too is from Panchali language. There is absence of high central vowels and presence of voiced aspirates. Palatalisation and

nasalization are phonemic in Panchali language. Overall the present work provides new insights and these findings can be very helpful for further study.

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The following books were consulted during research written on Panchali.

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