

Phonological Analysis of Hindko Spoken in Kangan Area of Kashmir Valley

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Abstract

The present paper investigates the phonological description of Hindko language including the distribution of vowels and consonants, contrasts in vowels, syllable structure, gemination and consonant phoneme contrast.

Keywords: Hindko, vowels and consonants, syllable structure and gemination.

1. Introduction

Hindko is one of the hill tribes settled in the valley of Jammu and Kashmir. According to their claim, the war between India and Pakistan divided the community into two parts. One part settled in Pakistan and the other part settled in the Indian state i.e. the mountainous regions of Jammu and Kashmir. On the Indian side the Hindko speakers are mainly concentrated in the Kangan area which falls in the district of Ganderbal. Data for the present study was taken from the Kangan area. Hindko is both the name of the people and their language. It is spoken by around 10,000 people in anderwan village and the surrounding areas of Kangan, of district Ganderbal. Apart from Kangan, the Hindko speakers are also observed to be scattered in various districts of Jammu and Kashmir like Baramulla, Shopian, Anantnag, Bandipora, Poonch and Rajouri. Shackle suggests that Hindko refers to “the Indian language” (1980:482), i.e., an Indic language, in sociolinguistic contrast to Pashto, the Iranian language of the area. The term *Hindki* is often used to refer to a speaker of the Hindko language (Shackle, 1980:482), but in popular usage it may refer to the language as well. Hindko has been surveyed by Grierson in his ‘Linguistic survey of India’ as “the language of Hindus” (1919:234). He stated that the Hindko dialects were included within an extensive grouping called Lahanda, a term coined to designate various languages of Western Punjab and adjoining territories (1919:554,565). For a typical Hindko speaker, the linguistic repertoire comprises of: Hindko (mother tongue), Pahari, Kashmiri, Gojri and Urdu.

2. Methodology

An intensive fieldwork was carried out to collect the data from various areas of Kangan. A Questionnaire was prepared consisting of words which focused on the phonology of Hindko. The collection of data was from primary sources i.e. interviews, direct questioning and discussions. A good quality tape-recorder was used for recording of speech sounds. For the accurate transcription of data, IPA has been employed so that for each sound used there was a particular symbol. The data transcribed was analysed using the principles of phonological analysis.

3. Analysis

The phonological description of Hindko given here provides inventory and articulation of vowels, contrast between vowels, and inventory and articulation of consonants and the distribution of segmental phonemes at various positions i.e. initial, medial and final.

4. Phonemic System of Hindko

4.1(a)Vowels

The Hindko language has eight vowels: /i/, /e/, /a/, /o/, /u/, /ɨ/, /ɛ/ and /ə/. Each vowel has a long counterpart except for /ɛ/, /ə/ and /ɨ/. Vowel length is observed to be phonemic in Hindko language.

	Front	Mid	Back
High	/i/,/i:/	/ɨ/	/u/,/u:/
Mid	/e/,/e:/	/ə/	/o/,/o:/
Mid Low	/ɛ/		
Low		/a/,/a:/	

Table.1: Vowel System of Hindko language

4.2 Distribution of Vowels

Articulation of vowels involves contrast of tongue position, tongue height, and the rounding of lips as noted below:

- /i/ (high front un-rounded short vowel)
- /iʃ/ 'brick'
- /ɖa:kija:/ 'postman'
- /zəmi/ 'land'
- /i:/ (high front un-rounded long vowel)
- /dʒəmi:n/ 'earth'
- /ʃa:ndi:/ 'silver'
- /e/ (mid front un-rounded short vowel)
- /ekʃar/ 'actor'
- /set/ 'health'
- /piʃ^he/ 'behind'
- /e:/ (mid front un-rounded long vowel)
- /e:kla:/ 'alone'
- /re:t/ 'sand'
- /it^he:/ 'here'
- /ɨ/ (high central un-rounded short vowel)
- /riʃtɨda:r/ 'relatives'
- /kaʃi/ 'little'
- /a/ (low central un-rounded short vowel)

/ag/ 'fire'
 /sak^ht/ 'hard'
 /dʒaŋa/ 'husband'
 /a:/ (low central un-rounded long vowel)
 /a:llu:/ 'potato'
 /da:lfini:/ 'cinnamon'
 /so:na:/ 'gold'
 /o/ (mid back rounded short vowel)
 /ok^hi:/ 'difficult'
 /k^hodʒa:/ 'grocer'
 /mija:k^ho/ 'honey'
 /o:/ (mid back rounded long vowel)
 /o:la:/ 'light by weight'
 /mo:sam/ 'weather'
 /haʃo:/ 'to move'
 /u/ (high back rounded short vowel)
 /ullu/ 'owl'
 /dʒuva:/ 'gambling'
 /dʒannu/ 'knee'
 /u:/ (high back rounded long vowel)
 /t^hu:l/ 'egg'
 /kaddu:/ 'gourd'
 /ɛ/ (low front un-rounded short vowel)
 /pɛse:/ 'coin'
 /dʒurabɛ/ 'socks'
 /ə/ (mid central un-rounded short vowel)
 /əɖi/ 'heel'
 /k^hubsu:rət/ 'beautiful'
 /sɪŋə/ 'antelope'

4.3 Phonemic contrast in Vowels

The following minimal pairs illustrate the contrast in length of these vowels:

/a/ vs. /a: /

Hindko	Gloss	Hindko	Gloss
/tar/	'wet'	/ta:r/	'wire'
/par/	'but'	/pa:r/	'opposite-side'

/u/ vs. /u: /

Hindko	Gloss	Hindko	Gloss
/butta:/	'mongoloids'	/bu:ttā:/	'tree'
/pul/	'bridge'	/pu:l/	'shoes made up of grass'

/o/ vs. /o:/'

Hindko	Gloss	Hindko	Gloss
/poh/	'december'	/po:h/	'father'

5. Consonants

Thirty-one consonant phonemes are proposed for Hindko language, which are listed below. Consonants are classified into different groups on the basis of their manner and place of articulation.

		<u>Bilabial</u> <u>/ Labio-</u> <u>Dental</u>	<u>Alveolar-</u> <u>Dental</u>	<u>Retroflex</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Plosives</u>	<u>Voiceless</u>	p	t	t̪		k	
	<u>Aspirated</u>	p ^h	t ^h	t̪ ^h		k ^h	
	<u>Voiced</u>	b	d	d̪		g	
	<u>Aspirated</u>	b ^h	d ^h			g ^h	
<u>Affricate</u>	<u>Voiceless</u>				tʃ		
	<u>Aspirated</u>				tʃ ^h		
	<u>Voiced</u>						
<u>Fricative</u>	<u>Voiceless</u>	f	s		ʃ		h
	<u>Voiced</u>		z		dʒ		
<u>Nasal</u>		m	n	ɳ		ŋ	
<u>Lateral</u>			l				
<u>Flap</u>			r				
<u>Glide</u>		v				j	

Table.2: Consonant system of Hindko Language

5.1 Consonant Phonemes Contrast

The following minimal pairs illustrate the contrast between different consonant phonemes.

/p/ vs. /b/

Hindko	Gloss	Hindko	Gloss
/pal/	‘rock’	/bal/	‘wrap’
/ta:p/	‘fever’	/ta:b/	‘to wait’

/g/ vs. /k/

Hindko	Gloss	Hindko	Gloss
/gaɖi:/	‘watch’	/kaɖi:/	‘time’
/go:l/	‘round’	/ko:l/	‘near’

/p/ vs. /p^h/

Hindko	Gloss	Hindko	Gloss
/pa:nɖa:/	‘utensil’	/p ^h a:nɖa:/	‘disease’
/pa:r/	‘across’	/p ^h a:r/	‘weight’

/s/ vs. /ʃ/

Hindko	Gloss	Hindko	Gloss
/sa:l/	‘year’	/ʃa:l/	‘shawl’

/k/ vs. /k^h/

Hindko	Gloss	Hindko	Gloss
/kar/	‘to do’	/k ^h ar/	‘cutting board’

5.2 Distribution of Consonants

Stops

/p/ (voiceless un-aspirated bilabial stop)

/pe:ɖ/ ‘sheep’

/haspita:l/ ‘hospital’

/top/ ‘heat’

/p^h/ (voiceless aspirated bilabial stop)

/p^hoɖa/ ‘tumour’

/p^hup^hi/ ‘father's sister’

/gap^h/ ‘converse’

/b/ (voiced un-aspirated bilabial stop)

/bikam/ ‘earthquake’

/alamba:/ ‘flame’

/sela:b/ ‘flood’

/b^h/ (voiced aspirated bilabial stop)

/b ^h aɖa:s/	‘steam’
/lagb ^h ag/	‘about’
/dʒi:b ^h /	‘tongue’
/t/	(voiceless un-aspirated dental stop)
/to:l ^h na:/	‘to measure’
/patla:/	‘thin’
/gɛbat/	‘gossip’
/t ^h /	(voiceless aspirated dental stop)
/t ^h akja/	‘tired’
/ha:t ^h i:/	‘elephant’
/hat ^h /	‘hand’
/g/	(voiced un-aspirated velar stop)
/groh/	‘planet’
/kagra:/	‘blouse’
/ro:g/	‘disease’
/g ^h /	(voiced aspirated velar stop)
/g ^h ũŋru:/	‘anklets’
/ga:g ^h ar/	‘can’
/sa:g ^h /	‘green leafy vegetable’
/ɾ/	(voiced alveolar trill)
/rasi:/	‘rope’
/kudrət/	‘nature’
/ba:dʒar/	‘pebble’
/ɽ/	(voiceless un-aspirated retroflex stop)
/t̪i:bi:/	‘tuberculosis’
/bo:t̪i:/	‘bride’
/ko:t̪/	‘coat’
/t̪ ^h /	(voiceless aspirated retroflex stop)
/t̪ ^h and/	‘cold’
/pu:t̪ ^h a:/	‘opposite’
/be:t̪ ^h /	‘bat’
/ɖ/	(voiced un-aspirated retroflex stop)
/quɖu:/	‘varieties of finger’
/gadja/	‘pot’
/paha:ɖ/	‘mountain’
/d/	(voiced un-aspirated dental stop)
/di:ja:/	‘lamp’
/dʒandra:/	‘lock’
/kand/	‘wall’
d ^h /	(voiced aspirated dental stop)
/d ^h a:ga:/	‘thread’
/gad ^h a/	‘mattress’

/lad^h/ 'to lift'
 /k/ (voiceless un-aspirated velar stop)
 /kita:b/ 'book'
 /lakdi:/ 'wood'
 /ʃamak/ 'lightning'
 /k^h/ (aspirated voiceless velar stop)
 /k^ho:ta:/ 'donkey'
 /ʃak^had/ 'wind'
 /ak^h/ 'eye'

Fricatives

/s/ (voiceless alveolar fricative)
 /set/ 'health'
 /pasli:/ 'rib'
 /ma:s/ 'flesh'
 /h/ (voiceless glottal fricative)
 /hava:/ 'air'
 /leher/ 'wave'
 /rah/ 'road'
 /f/ (voiceless labio-dental fricative)
 /fo:ʈu:/ 'picture'
 /nafrat/ 'hatred'
 /insa:f/ 'mercy'

Affricates

/dʒ/ (voiced un-aspirated post-alveolar affricate)
 /dʒand/ 'flag'
 /ba:dʒar/ 'pebble'
 /ʃatrandʒ/ 'chess'
 /tʃ/ (voiceless un-aspirated palato-alveolar stop)
 /ʃad/ 'cloud'
 /satʃa:/ 'honest'
 /mutʃ/ 'many'
 /tʃ^h/ (voiceless aspirated palato-alveolar affricate)
 /tʃ^hã:/ 'shade'
 /nitʃ^hηa:/ 'to sneeze'
 /magarmatʃ^h/ 'crocodile'
 /z/ (voiced un-aspirated post-alveolar affricate)
 /zana:ni/ 'wife'
 /sabzi/ 'vegetable'
 /ava:z/ 'noise'
 /ʃ/ (voiceless alveolar palatal affricate)

/ʃa:l/	‘shawl’
/miʃri:/	‘sugar’
/ja:da:ʃ/	‘memory’

Nasals

/m/	(voiced bilabial nasal)
/mantri:/	‘minister’
/kamzo:r/	‘weakness’
/ʃaram/	‘shame’
/n/	(voiced dental nasal)
/naʃrat/	‘hatred’
/kanʃa:/	‘boundary’
/imtiha:n/	‘examination’
/ŋ/	(voiced retroflex nasal)
/baŋa:na/	‘to make’
/duʃmaŋ/	‘enemy’
/ŋ/	(voiced velar nasal)
/ʃãŋa:/	‘good’
/sũŋ/	‘to smell’

Approximants

/l/	(voiced alveolar lateral approximant)
/la:ltʃi:/	‘greedy’
/kalbu:tar/	‘pigeon’
/pa:gal/	‘mad’
/v/	(voiced labio-dental approximant)
/va:di:/	‘valley’
/dzudʃvã:/	‘twins’
/ʃ ^h a:v/	‘to pick’
/j/	(voiced palatal approximant)
/ja:ra:/	‘friend’
/dunija:/	‘world’
/ra:j/	‘opinion’

6. Syllable

In Hindko, syllabification has been done as:

- (i) Monosyllabic
- (ii) Disyllabic, and
- (iii) Polysyllabic words

I. MONOSYLLABIC STRUCTURE

1. V	/a:/	‘to come’
	/o:/	‘that’

2. VC	/ag/	‘fire’
	/id/	‘belly’
	/ak ^h /	‘eye’
3.CV	/k ^h u/	‘well’
	/a:p/	‘himself’
4. CVC	/di:h/	‘sun’
	/fi:l/	‘eagle’
	/mo:r/	‘peacock’
	/par/	‘feather’
5. CCV	/grã:/	‘village’
6. CCVC	/kra:d/	‘miser’

II. DISYLLABIC STRUCTURE

1.	V.CV	/a:ʃa:/	‘flour’
2.	CV.CV	/ʃ ^h uri/	‘knife’
3.	VC.CV	/ufrã:/	‘over’
4.	CV.CVC	/ka:ledʒ/	‘college’
5.	CVC.CVC	/duʃman/	‘enemy’
6.	VC.CVC	/anpaɖ/	‘illiterate’
7.	CVC.CV	/gadri:/	‘girl’

III. POLYSYLLABIC STRUCTURE

1.	CVC.CV.CV	/mazdu:ra:/	‘labour’
2.	CV.CV.CV	/ɖa:kija:/	‘postman’
3.	VC.CV.CVC	/imtiha:n/	‘examination’
4.	CVC.CVC.CV	/sandu:ktʃa/	‘box’
5.	V.CVC.CVC	/ima:nda:r/	‘honest’
6.	CVC.CVC.CVC	/sãŋmarmar/	‘marble’
7.	CVC.CV.CV.CV	/ra:dʒkuma:ri:/	‘princess’

7. Consonant Clusters

In Hindko language the consonant clusters are the occurrences of two consonants within a syllable at word initial, medial and final position.

a. Initial cluster of two consonants (CC—)

The initial clusters are found in the word initial or syllable initial positions.

/tr/	/trakja:/	‘rotten’
/gr/	/grã:/	‘village’
/dr/	/dreja:ni/	‘husband's brother's wife’

b. Medial cluster of two consonants (—CC—)

The medial clusters are found as the sequence of consonants in the medial position which belong to the same word/syllable.

/tr/	/ma:tre:/	‘step mother’
/dr/	/mandra:/	‘short’
/kr/	/kankrul/	‘centipede’

c. Final cluster of two consonants (-CC)

The final cluster appears at the end of the word/ syllable.

/rf/	/barf/	‘ice’
/ndz/	/pandz/	‘five’
/rd/	/mard/	‘male’

8. Gemination

In phonetics gemination or consonant elongation happens when a spoken consonant is pronounced for an audibly longer period of time than a short consonant.

/tt/	/mitti:/	‘clay’
/ll/	/ullu/	‘owl’
/tt/	/pu:tta:/	‘chick’
/nn/	/dzannu/	‘ankle’

9. Conclusion

The present paper presented the phonological description of Hindko language including the phonemic inventory, contrasts and distribution of consonants and vowels. Hindko is observed to have 13 vowel and 31 consonant phonemes. On the other hand, the phonemes /ŋ, ɲ/ do not occur in initial positions. However, all the consonantal phonemes appear word medially. In Hindko language, consonant clusters occur in initial, medial and final positions. The closed syllable type CVC is very common in Hindko language.

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