

Phonology of the Language of Uraly Tribes

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Abstract

Tribes, a cognate group of people, featuring some amount of cultural and linguistic homogeneity. They are the integral part of our civilization and having rich distinct cultural heritage. According to the 2011 census, tribal people constitute 8.6% of the nation's total population. The total Scheduled Tribe population of Kerala, as per latest census (2011) is 4,84,839 which constitute 1.45% of the total population of the State and it has 37 Scheduled Tribes recognized by the Government. The present paper tries to find out the Phonological aspects of language of Uraly Tribal Community. A brief description of the general Demographic profiling of the community is also given for the statistic understanding of the community. Present work is focused on the Uraly tribal community in the Idukki district. Based on descriptive phonological analysis, total number of Vowels and Consonants is listed and their distribution, gemination, cluster formation, etc., are also mentioned.

Keywords: Uraly, Kerala Tribes, Shamanic, Vowel, Consonant, Syllable, Dialect, Shaman, Uuru

Introduction

The tribes of Kerala are descendants of the Pre- historic settlers of the region. Kerala has around 37 Scheduled Tribe Communities. The total Scheduled Tribe population of Kerala, according to 2011 census is 484839 which constitute 1.45% of the total population of Kerala in which the total population of Kerala is 33406061(www.censusindia.gov.in). Indian Tribal group constitutes 10.4 % of the total population of the country. Tribes are the integral part of Indian civilization and possess rich cultural heritage. The tribes of Kerala are descendants of the Pre-historic settlers of the region. Most of them are settled in the district of Wayanad, Idukki, Palakkad, Kasargod and Malappuram districts. Wayanad district has the maximum number, close to 38.4% of the overall population (Researchers, 2011).

Aim and Objectives

The main objective of this proposal is to study the phonological aspects of Uraly Language of Uraly Community in the Idukki district of the state of Kerala.

Literature Review

“The influence of the Dominant Language” an article written by Dr. Sam Mohan Lal in the international Journal ‘Language in India, edited by Dr. MS Thirumalai and B. Mallikarjun in 2002 is an excellent work regarding mother tongue influence of Uraly in the Tamil background. In this article he pointed out that the Uralys have frequent verbal and other material interaction with the non Uraly, especially the Tamils living in the region and the impact is reflected in their cultural aspect as well as their language aspect. In this study he was focused on the Uraly community in the Satyamangalam Taluk of the Periyar district in Tamilnadu State.

The descriptive analysis of Uraly by Dr Sam Mohan Lal, published by CIIL in 1991 was an excellent study regarding the language of Uraly Language. In this study, the author pointed out that the Vowel system exhibits some structural holes so as the vowels /i/ and /o/ do not have their centralized counterparts. As Robert Hall pointed out in his book ‘Introductory Linguistics in 1964, that ‘the phonetic change precedes Phonemic change’; like ways the phonetic change that has occurred in the Uraly speech may be ‘its first instance’. He identified that Uraly language has 36 segmental phonemes where 16 are vowels and 20 are consonants. And he declared that the Vowel sounds are classified into two, namely, centralized vowel series and noncentralized vowel series.

Grammar of Uraly language written by Syama is an excellent work regarding Uraly community at Idukki district Kerala.

An article published by Mallikarjun. B published in the International Journal Language in India in 2002 according to the 1961 Government of India Census is an excellent article related to mother tongues. In this article, certain language chart was published, and it contains 1652 mother tongues. The author pointed out that identified mother tongues may not have been identical to the languages, dialects or even speech forms of Individual.

‘The Shamanic Healing experiences and religious system among Uraly Tribes of India; A Sociological Analysis’ was one of the best articles written by Indu V Menon in the Journal of Kirtads, Vol. I, 2017 March, PP (18-26). In this article the author detailing briefly about the shamanic performance regarding the Uraly tribal communities of Kerala state.

Methodology and Data collection

Descriptive and Analytical methodologies are followed in this study. First of all, during data collection identification of sounds, terms and conversation may give more emphasis. Primary data will be collected through extensive field work. Various methods may be used in this study such as Observation, Discussions, Interview methods and surveys. Secondary data

may be collected from official records, books, Library reference, etc. So, the present study uses both primary and secondary data.

Statement of the Problem

Uraly Language of Uraly tribal community is in the state of language endangerment. The education of tribes is still a big problem. Most of the Tribal languages do not have a script. A small number of students have the real opportunity for education in the medium of their mother tongues. In spite of a lot of efforts, they have not yet been brought to the mainstream. Almost all are admitted to schools, but a majority among them became dropouts. Low level school learning was found among tribal children not only because of household factors but also problems with the language of instruction which is quite distinct from their mother tongue.

Need of the Study

This study is very important for the language of Uraly tribe. It would be more useful for the teachers, students and researchers. This study will provide a comprehensive understanding of the Uraly Community's native language.

Uraly

Uraly tribal communities were residing at Idukki, Kottayam, Wayanad districts of the state of Kerala. The etymology of the term 'Uraly' is 'rulers' (Ali or Alunnavan) of the land (ūru) (Indu V Menon, 2017). More number of Uraly tribal communities is residing in Idukki. In the district of Wayanad, Mullukurumans refer them as Kuruman so as to distinguish them from Uralykuruman, whereas the Uraly Kurumans refer themselves as Uraly to distinguish themselves from Mullukurumans. Both of them have to be enumerated as Kurumans. But Uralykurumans are enumerated as Uraly and they are also included along with the Uraly of Idukki district, a quite distinct tribal Community (Scheduled Tribes of Kerala, at a glance, KIRTADS, 2003).

Uraly tribal people are rich in the traditional knowledge like other tribal groups of Kerala. Approximately 58% of the total Uraly populations in Kerala live in highland region of Peerumedu and Thodupuzha taluks of Idukki District and parts of Wayanad district. The Uraly population is mostly living in rural areas, whereas a small number of Uraly people live in urban areas in search of jobs (Researchers, Kirtads, 2013). The shamanic ritual practices of the Uraly tribe are called 'Eluppam Kuthth'. In this process the shaman invokes the spirit into a square shaped box known as 'Eluppam petti'. This process is called 'Cheppikkal'. Usually this type of practices starts in the dusk and the night. (Indu V Menon, 2017).

According to 1991 census report, the total tribal population of the state is 320967, which is 1.10% of total population of the state, 39098518. According to 1991 Census, the total Uraly community population is 10335, in which total male population is 5316 and Female population is 5019. Percentage of total tribal population is 3.22. Uraly tribal population in the

Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 19:6 June 2019

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Idukki district is 5843, Kottayam district is 617, Pathanamthitta district is 1155 and in Wayanad district is 2469. According to 2001 Census total population of the Uraly Community is 11103. Total male population is 5545 and female population is 5558. Sex ratio is 1002 and literacy ratio is 63.33. According to Kila report, Uraly population in the Idukki district is 6823, Kottayam district is 671. The population among Wayanad district is 3466, that of Idukki district is 6438 and Kottayam district has a population of 675 people. According to 2011 Government of India Census total population of Uraly tribal community in the Kerala state is 11179. Total male and female populations were 5602 and 5577 respectively. Total sex ratio is 996 and literacy ratio is 80.1. The total percentage of Kerala is 2.3%. According to 2011 Census, total Uraly Tribal community population is distributed in four districts namely Idukki, Kottayam, and Wayanad as 6515, 666 and 3654 and the total households is 3298 respectively. The demographic features of scheduled tribes described in the book 'Scheduled Tribes of Kerala: Report on the Socio Economic Status' published by Scheduled Tribe department, Government of Kerala details the distribution of Uraly community in grama panchayats is given below (Report on the socio Economic Status, 2013).

| Sl No | District | Families | Population | | | |
|-------|-----------|----------|------------|--------|-------|-------|
| | | | Male | Female | Total | % |
| 1 | Kottayam | 183 | 333 | 338 | 671 | 8.87 |
| 2 | Idukki | 1894 | 3478 | 3345 | 6823 | 98.28 |
| 3 | Ernakulam | 22 | 37 | 28 | 65 | 0.85 |
| Total | | 2099 | 3848 | 3711 | 7559 | 100 |

Table. 1: Distribution of Uraly Community in Grama Panchayats (Report on the socio Economic Status, 2013).

| Sl No | District | No | Grama panchayats | Population |
|-------|----------|----|--------------------|------------|
| 1 | Kottayam | 1 | Erattupetta | 4 |
| | | 2 | Poonjar Thekkekara | 319 |
| | | 3 | Teekoy | 314 |
| | | 4 | Thalanad | 30 |
| | | 5 | Mundakayam | 4 |
| 2 | Idukki | 6 | Adimali | 85 |
| | | 7 | Santhanpara | 3 |
| | | 8 | Chinnakanal | 9 |
| | | 9 | Vannappuram | 684 |
| | | 10 | Udumbanoor | 544 |
| | | 11 | Velliyamattom | 1796 |
| | | 12 | Karimannoor | 13 |
| | | 13 | Idukki Kanjikizhy | 491 |
| | | 14 | Vathikudy | 12 |

| | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|------|-----------------------------|------|
| | | 15 | Arakulam | 456 |
| | | 16 | Kamakshy | 2 |
| | | 17 | Vazhathope | 215 |
| | | 18 | Mariyapuram | 14 |
| | | 19 | Upputhara | 1777 |
| | | 20 | Kanchiyar | 150 |
| | | 21 | Ayyappankovil | 308 |
| | | 22 | Kumily | 12 |
| | | 23 | Elappara | 13 |
| | | 24 | Vandipperiyar | 239 |
| 3 | Ernakulam | 25 | Kochi(Corporataion) | 4 |
| | | 26 | Varappetty | 3 |
| | | 27 | Kuttampuzha | 49 |
| | | 28 | Palakkuzha | 2 |
| | | 29 | Paipra | 4 |
| | | 30 | Kothamangalam(Municipality) | 3 |
| Total | | 7559 | | |

Table. 2: Detailed distribution of Uraly Community in Grama Panchayats (Report on the socio Economic Status, 2013).

Phonology

Phonology is a branch of Linguistics which studies the sound system of Languages. Minimum unit in the sound system of a language are called Phonemes. The aim of Phonology is to demonstrate the patterns of distinctive sound found in a language. In Uraly Language, 29 phonemes are identified. Total Vowels identified are 5 and Consonants are 24.

Vowels

Vowels are sounds in which there are no obstruction to flow of air as it passes from larynx to lips. Vowel phonemes identified in this language are /a/, /e/, /i/, /o/ and /u/ called short Vowels and Long Vowels are classified as /ā/, /ē/, /ī/, /ō/, and /ū/. (CG Syama)

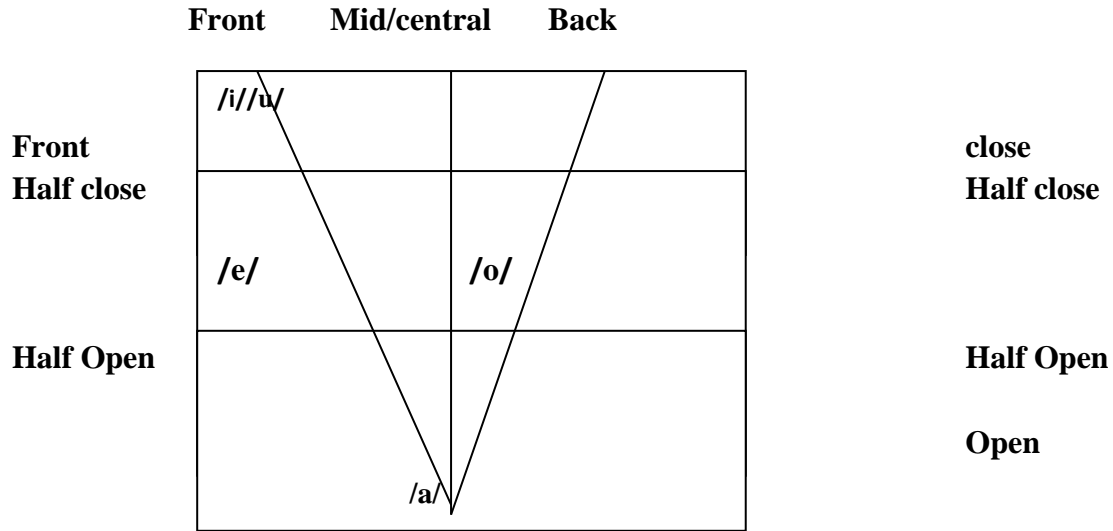


Fig: 1 Vowel

| | | | |
|--------|---------|-----------|--------|
| | (Front) | (Central) | (Back) |
| (High) | /i/ | | /u/ |
| (Mid) | /e/ | | /o/ |
| (Low) | | /a/ | |

Table: 3 Positions of Vowels

Short Vowels

| | | | |
|------|-------|---------|------|
| | Front | Central | Back |
| High | i | | u |
| Mild | e | | o |
| Low | | a | ə |

Table: 4 Positions of Short Vowel

Distributions of Short Vowels

/ a e i o u /

Short Vowels in Word initial position

| | | | |
|-----|-----|-----------|-------------------|
| Eg: | /a/ | /accilʌ/ | ‘snail’ |
| | /e/ | /eɭēdu/ | ‘when’ |
| | /i/ | /iɖattu/ | ‘left side’ |
| | /o/ | /oyiccu/ | ‘poured’ |
| | /u/ | /uluŋkan/ | ‘a stingy person’ |

Short Vowels in Word Medial Positions

| | | | |
|-----|-----|--------------|---------------|
| Eg: | /a/ | /kaku/ | ‘vomit’ |
| | /e/ | /kaɖɛdu/ | ‘to steal’ |
| | /i/ | /oɖiccu/ | ‘broke’ |
| | /o/ | /toɖa/ | ‘thigh’ |
| | /u/ | /puttimuɖtu/ | ‘botheration’ |

Short Vowels in Word Final Position

| | | | |
|-----|-----|------------|------------------|
| Eg: | /a/ | /nāɖa/ | ‘korocene lamps’ |
| | /e/ | /peɖɛ/ | ‘female’ |
| | /i/ | /tēnīccii/ | ‘honeybee’ |
| | /o/ | /eppo/ | ‘when’ |
| | /u/ | /naɖu/ | ‘to plant’ |

Long Vowels

| | Front | Central | Back |
|------|-------|---------|------|
| High | ī | | ū |
| Mild | ē | | ō |
| Low | | ā | |

Table: 5 Positions of Long Vowels

Distributions of Long Vowels

/ā ē ī ō ū/

Long Vowels in Word Initial Position

| | | | |
|-----|-----|-----------|-------------|
| Eg: | /ī/ | /iiRa/ | ‘reed’ |
| | /ē/ | /ēɳa/ | ‘gum’ |
| | /ā/ | /ārttu/ | ‘cried’ |
| | /ū/ | /ūribaru/ | ‘slip down’ |
| | /ō/ | /ōli/ | ‘pond’ |

Long Vowels in Word Medial Positions

| | | | |
|-----|-----|-----------|----------------|
| Eg: | /ā/ | /nāɖa/ | ‘wrack’ |
| | /ē/ | /cēɖatti/ | ‘elder sister’ |

| | | |
|-----|-------------|----------------------|
| /ī/ | /cīmpu/ | ‘to tear’ |
| /ō/ | /ōḍōṇ/ | ‘tortoise’ |
| /ū/ | /oRRamūnki/ | ‘a type of plantain’ |

Long Vowels in Word Final Position

| | |
|---------|-----|
| Eg: /ā/ | Nil |
| /ē/ | Nil |
| /ī/ | Nil |
| /ō/ | Nil |
| /ū/ | Nil |

But after analysis it was found that some colloquial terms during conversation and some imperatives and onomatopoeic words has noted with the long sounds.

| | |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| Eg: nī pō | ‘you go’ |
| nī vā | ‘you come’ |
| minuminā | ‘referring to glittering |
| niṅgaḷu vṇṇā | ‘you come back’? |

Consonants

Consonants are speech sounds during the articulation of which there is an obstruction. That is, Consonants can be defined phonetically as sounds made by closure or narrowing in the vocal tract so that the airflow is either completely blocked or so restricted that the audible friction is produced. It also occurs in word initial, medial and final positions.

| (Position of Articulation) → -(Manner of Articulation) ↓ | Bilabial vl vd | Labiodental vl vd | Dental vl vd | Alveolar vl vd | Retroflex vl vd | Palatal vl vd | Velar vl vd |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Stops/Plosives | p b | | t d | | ʈɖ | c j | k g |
| Nasals | m | | ṅ | n | ṇ | ñ | ŋ |
| Laterals | | | | l | ɭ | | |
| Flaps | | | | r R | | | |
| Fricative | | | | s | | ś | |
| Continuant | | v | | | | y | |

Table: 6 List of Consonants

Based on the position of articulation consonants may be classified in to seven; namely, Bilabial, Labio-Dental, Dental, Alveolar, Retroflex, Palatal and Velar Sounds. Bilabial sounds includes /p/, /m/ and /b/, Labio Dental sounds includes /v/, Dental sounds includes /t/, /d/ and /n/, Alveolar sounds includes /n/, /l/, /s/, /r/ and /R/, Retroflex sounds includes /ʈ/, /ɖ/, /ɳ/ and /ɻ/Palatal sounds includes /ɲ/, /ʃ/, /j/, /j/, /y/and /c/and Velar sounds includes /k/, /g/ and /ŋ/. Likewise based on manner of articulation consonants may be classified in to six; namely, Stops/Plosives, Nasals, Laterals, Flaps, Fricative and Continuant. Stops/Plosives sounds includes /P/, /b/, /t/, /d/, /ɖ/, /ʈ/, /j/, /c/, /k / and /g/, Nasal sounds includes /m/, /n/, /n/, /ɳ/, /ɲ/ and /ŋ/, Laterals sounds includes /l/ and /l/, Flaps sounds includes /r/ and /R/, Fricative sounds includes /s/ and /ʃ/and Continuant sounds includes /v/ and /y/ respectively.

Distribution of Consonants

Distributions of consonants in the language of Uraly community are described as follows.

Bilabial Stops

/p/ is a bilabial voiceless stop identified in this language. It occurs word initially and medially.

/b/ is a bilabial voiced stop, occurs word initially and medially.

| | | |
|-----|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| Eg: | /peṭṭemān/ | ‘male deer’ |
| | /peṭa/ | ‘hen’ |
| | /cōppu/ | ‘red’ |
| | /cāmpereṭ/ | ‘ash’ |
| | /bayinēram/ | ‘evening’ |
| | /umba/ | ‘child language to represent cow’ |

Dental Stops

/t/ is Dental voiceless stop, occurs initially and medially

/d/ is Dental voiced stop, occurs word initially and medially.

| | | |
|-----|--------------|-----------------|
| Eg: | /tēkam/ | ‘body’ |
| | /tiṅkina/ | ‘ate’ |
| | /pātaram/ | ‘vessels’ |
| | /pokkutaṇḍu/ | ‘navel string’ |
| | /dēvi/ | ‘goddess’ |
| | /kādu/ | ‘ear’ |
| | /cedu/ | ‘to that place’ |

Retroflex Stop

/ʈ/ is the voiceless retroflex stop identified in this language. It occurs word medially.

/ɖ/ is the voiced retroflex stop. It occurs word medially.

| | | |
|-----|--------------|----------|
| Eg: | /talakkōṭṭi/ | ‘skull’ |
| | /miṭṭəḷu/ | ‘locust’ |

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| /ōḍōṇ/ | ‘tortoise’ |
| /oḍi/ | ‘to break’ |
| /cekkīḍakkuṇa/ | ‘that which lay at a distance’ |

Palatal Stops

/c/ is the voiceless palatal stop which occurs initially and medially.

/j/ is the voiced palatal stop which occurs initially

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Eg: /cuyippi/ | ‘a hairy spot in head’ |
| /cetti/ | ‘a species of chrysanthus’ |
| /mudupācci/ | ‘old woman’ |
| /jimukka/ | ‘an ear ornament’ |
| /jamandi/ | ‘a type of flower’ |

Velar Stop

/k/ is voiceless velar stop which occurs word initially and medially

/g/ is the voiced velar stop which occurs word initially and medially.

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Eg: /kiḷli/ | ‘armpit’ |
| /kaḷaRkku/ | ‘to play’ |
| /maryadakkeḍu/ | ‘disobedience’ |
| /vekku/ | ‘heat’ |
| /guRakka/ | ‘watch man’ |
| /pāgupetṭi/ | ‘nail’ |
| /palagāra/ | ‘sweet food’ |
| /cagaṇi/ | ‘the inner fibrous filament of the flesh of the jack fruit’ |

Nasals

There are six nasal phonemes identified in this language.

/m/ is the bilabial nasal, which occurs word initially, medially and finally.

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Eg: /maḍiyāte// | ‘without folding’ |
| /miṭṭum/ | ‘will shudder’ |
| /nēma// | ‘Father’s younger brother’s wife’ |
| /biyyum/ | ‘will fall’ |

/n/ is the Alveolar nasals, which occurs word initially, medially and finally.

| | |
|--------------|-----------|
| /noccikkuḍi/ | ‘to suck’ |
|--------------|-----------|

| | |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| /nālu/ | ‘four’ |
| /manam/ | ‘happiness’ |
| /nālippūvan/ | ‘a variety of plantain’ |

/n/ is the dental nasal, which occurs word initially and medially.

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| Eg: /nāvu/ | ‘tongue’ |
| /nari/ | ‘wolf’ |
| /kuṇcittala/ | ‘hair tuff’ |
| /paṇcāra/ | ‘sugar’ |

/ṇ/ is retroflex nasals which occurs word medially only.

| | |
|------------|-----------------|
| Eg: /tōṇi/ | ‘burial ground’ |
| /pūṇi/ | ‘bag’ |

/ñ/ dental nasal which occurs word initially and medially.

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Eg: /ñāññū/ | ‘earth worm’ |
| /kūññilu/ | ‘the mid part of a jackfruit’ |
| /kuññi/ | ‘small’ |

/ŋ/ is velar nasal occurs word medially.

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Eg: /ōruṅkan/ | ‘a kind of bird’ |
| /tēṅkanni/ | ‘honeybee’ |

Laterals

/l/ and /ɭ/ are two lateral sounds identified in this language

/l/ is Alveolar laterals which occurs word medially.

/ɭ/ is Retroflex laterals which occurs word medially.

| | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Eg: /niyalu/ | ‘shadow’ |
| /kālu/ | ‘leg’ |
| /kiḷḷiyaḍilu/ | ‘below the armpit’ |
| /mōḷinōṇa/ | ‘in the upper gum’ |

Flaps

/r/ is a flap sound identified in this language, which occurs word medially.

/R/ is a flap sound identified in this language, which occurs word medially.

| | | |
|-----|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Eg: | /iruvaru/ | ‘two persons’ |
| | /irāvāṇi/ | ‘a type of snake’ |
| | /ṛRa/ | ‘reed’ |
| | /tāRuḍukku/ | ‘wear cloth tucked in a clue’ |

Alveolar Fricative

/s/ is Alveolar Fricative which occurs word medially.

| | | |
|-----|-----------|---------------|
| Eg: | /iruvaru/ | ‘two persons’ |
| | /viśēsam/ | ‘news’ |
| | /satya’/ | ‘truth |

Palatal Fricative

/ś/ is Palatal Fricative which occurs word medially.

| | | |
|-----|-----------|-------------|
| Eg: | /pāśi/ | ‘moss’ |
| | /vīśu/ | ‘to winnow’ |
| | /viśēsam/ | ‘news’ |

Continuants

/v/ and /y/ are two continuant phonemes identified in this language.

/v/ is Labiodentals continuant which occurs word initially and medially

/y/ is palatal continuant which occurs word medially.

| | | |
|-----|-------------|-------------------|
| Eg: | /vekku/ | ‘heat |
| | /vīśu/ | ‘to winnow’ |
| | /veṭṭalu/ | ‘pain’ |
| | /veykkuu/ | ‘wear’ |
| | /vāvalu/ | ‘bat’ |
| | /avāḷu/ | ‘she’ |
| | /koyyu/ | ‘to reap’ |
| | /noḍiyatēn/ | ‘a kind of honey’ |

Clusters

Cluster is a term used in connected speech to refer to any sequence of adjacent consonants occurring initially or finally in a syllable.

Consonant Clusters

When two or more consonants occur together, they are called a consonant cluster. Cluster means group.

Different Clusters

| | | | |
|-----|-------|-----------|------------|
| Eg: | /Rt̪/ | /saRt̪/ | ‘shirt’ |
| | /nR/ | /enRe/ | ‘my’ |
| | /ly/ | /kalyāṇa/ | ‘marriage’ |
| | /yk/ | /veyku/ | ‘to keep’ |
| | /ñk/ | /peñka/ | ‘sister’ |
| | /ṇḍ/ | /raṇḍu/ | ‘two’ |
| | /nt/ | /uluntu/ | ‘niggard’ |

Gemination or Identical consonant clusters.

Gemination is nothing but the long consonants.

Identical Clusters

| | | | |
|-----|--------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Eg: | /t̪t̪/ | /vet̪t̪u/ | ‘cut’ |
| | /ṇṇ/ | /nallaṇṇa/ | ‘gingili oil’ |
| | /l̪l̪/ | /pulleṃūkk̪an/ | ‘a species type of tiger’ |
| | /l̪l̪/ | /puḷḷi/ | ‘spot’ |
| | /kk/ | /pokuḷu/ | ‘navel’ |
| | /ññ/ | /periññilam/ | ‘a kind of tree’ |
| | /tt/ | /potta/ | ‘foot’ |
| | /pp/ | /appan/ | ‘father’ |
| | /RR/ | /t̪RRiccu/ | ‘made to eat’ |
| | /mm/ | /t̪rummu/ | ‘to pat’ |
| | /cc/ | /talaccoRu/ | ‘brain’ |
| | /yy/ | /koyy akka/ | ‘guava fruit’ |
| | /nn/ | /konna/ | ‘cassia tree’ |
| | /ññ/ | /muḍiññu/ | ‘ruined’ |
| | /ṇṇ/ | /paRṇṇu/ | ‘flew away’ |

Syllable

In a linguistic system the smallest distinctive sound unit is the phoneme. Phonemes combine to form the next higher unit of expression called syllable. A syllable consists of one or more phonemes and a word is made up of one or more syllable. (Dr. S.K. Syam 2016). A syllable is a unit consisting of one vowel or syllabic consonants, which may be preceded or followed by a consonant or consonants. Syllables generally classified in to open syllable and Closed syllable.

Open Syllable

If a syllable ends in a vowel, it is known as Open Syllable.

Eg: /dēvi/ 'goddess'

Closed Syllable

If a syllable ends in a consonant it is known as Closed Syllable.

Eg: /pākkān/ 'jackal'

Syllabification or Syllabic Structures

Syllabification is the term which refers to the division of a word into syllables. A word containing a single syllable is called monosyllabic word and if it contains two syllables, it is called disyllabic word, it contains three syllables it is called Tri syllabic word. And generally, more than one syllable, syllabic words are included in the Poly Syllabic.

Monosyllabic Words

Eg: V /ā/ 'that'
CVV /nī/ you
VCCV /anne/ 'me'

Disyllabic Words

Eg: CVVCV /nānu/ 'I'

Trisyllabic Words

Eg: CVCCVVCVCCV /ceṇḍāmatta/ 'second'

Conclusion

Main concern of this work was concentrated on the Phonological language concepts spoken by the Uraly tribal community. Here, the Phonological analysis of this language has been done within the data elicited from the selected informant of Uraly settlements in the Idukki District, Kerala State, in India. In this paper the Researcher included only the limited data for phonological analysis of Uraly language. From the analysis it is found that this language has immense similarities with the dialect of Malayalam having some sort of intonations. From this present study it was identified that this language has more similarities with Malayalam.

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Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 19:6 June 2019

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