

## **Gurezi Shina: A Typological Sketch**

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### **Abstract**

The present study aims at exploring the phonological and morpho-syntactic traits of Gurezi, which is a dialect of Shina language. The Shina language, itself belongs to the Dardic sub-group of Indo-Aryan language family. This language is primarily spoken in Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan, Dah Hanu, Gurais and Dras in India. The alternate names of the language are Shinaki and Sina. The language shows its various speech varieties such as Gilgiti, Astori, Chilasi, Kohistani, Drasi, Gurezi, Jalkoti, Kolai and Palasi. The Gurezi dialect of Shina is spoken in the Gurais region of Kashmir in the Republic of India. As far as the phonology of Gurezi Shina is analysed, it comprises of segmental vowel phonemes, suprasegmental phonemes and consonant phonemes which are described in the paper. The morphology of Shina language is also examined while taking the Nouns, numbers, pronoun, gender, and case suffix into consideration. The data for the research is purely descriptive and it has been compiled because of a number of field trips to the valley of Gurez.

**Keywords:** Shina; morphology; phonology; Indo-Aryan; Dardic; morpho-syntactic.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Shina language is a Dardic language that is affiliated to Indo-Aryan language family. This language is primarily spoken in Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan, Dah Hanu, Dras and Gurais regions in the valley of Kishenganga<sup>1,2</sup>. It is also spoken in various regions of small scattered villages in Yasin<sup>3</sup> and

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<sup>1</sup> Mosaic of Jammu and Kashmir

<sup>2</sup> Robert I Crane. Area Handbook on Jammu and Kashmir State. University of Chicago: university of Chicago for the Human Relations Area files, 179

<sup>3</sup> yasin valley. "wikipedia. Accessed february 2, 2018. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yasin\\_Valley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yasin_Valley)

Ishkoman valleys<sup>4</sup>, lower Hunza Valley<sup>5</sup>, Astor vale<sup>6</sup>, various regions of Kharmang<sup>7</sup>, Kachura<sup>8</sup> and Eastern part of Kohistan district<sup>9</sup>, Sazin, and Harban.

According to the census of 1997, there were 21,000 native speakers of the language in Republic of India<sup>10</sup>. In Pakistan, there were about 500,000 native speakers of this language cited according to the census of 1981-1998<sup>11</sup>. The alternative names given to this language in these areas is Gilgiti (Spoken in Gilgit, Punial, Hunza nagar, Bunji and Harmosh), Astori (Astor, Gurais, Dras, Satpora, Karmangi), Chilasi-Kohistani (Chilas, Darel, Tangir, Sazin, Harben)<sup>12</sup>

Shina language is hierarchically classified into Indo- European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, North western Zone, Dardic and Shina. In Baltistan and Ladakh, Shina speakers are known by the name of Brokpa and thus, their language is termed as Broksat<sup>13</sup>. It is pertinent to mention here that Broksat is employed semi officially in India to refer to a divergent variety of Shina spoken by both Shia and Sunni Muslims<sup>14</sup> and Buddhists as well.

The various dialects of Shina include Gilgiti (Bagrote, Bunji, Gilgit, Harmosh, Hunza nagar, Punyal, Rondu), Astori (Astor, Dras, Gurezi, Kharmangi, Satpora), Chilasi Kohistani ( Chilas, Darel, Harban, Sazin, Tangir), The lexical similarity within these dialects of Shina are mentioned in the table below:

**Table 1:** Lexical similarity within the dialects of Shina.

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<sup>4</sup> ishkoman valley. “wikipedia. Accessed february 2, 2018.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ishkoman\\_Valley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ishkoman_Valley)

<sup>5</sup> “Hunza valley. “Wikipedia, accessed February 2, 2018. ,

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hunza\\_Valley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hunza_Valley)

<sup>6</sup> “Astore valley. “Wikipedia, accessed February 2, 2018. ,

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Astore\\_Valley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Astore_Valley)

<sup>7</sup> “Kharmang valley. “Wikipedia, accessed February 2, 2018. ,

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kharmang\\_District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kharmang_District)

<sup>8</sup> “Kachura district. “Wikipedia, accessed February 2, 2018.

[pakistanpaedia.com/land/baltistan/valleys-of-pakistan\\_baltistan.html](http://pakistanpaedia.com/land/baltistan/valleys-of-pakistan_baltistan.html)

<sup>9</sup> “Kohistan district. “Wikipedia, accessed February 2, 2018.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kohistan\\_District,\\_Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kohistan_District,_Pakistan)

<sup>10</sup> Zahid Samoon, “Shina Language -Dedicated to Late Haji A.A.Samoon”, accessed February 2,

2018. , <http://gurais.wikifoundry-mobile.com/>

<sup>11</sup> *Shina at Ethnologue (18<sup>th</sup> ed. ,2015)*

*Kohistani Shina at Ethnologue (18<sup>th</sup> ed., 2015)*

<sup>12</sup> Robert I Crane, *Area Handbook on Jammu and Kashmir state* (university of Chicago: university of Chicago for the Human Relations Area files), 179

<sup>13</sup> “Shina language, “Wikipedia, accessed February 3,2018,

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shina\\_language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shina_language)

<sup>14</sup> “Brokskat A language of India ISO/DIS 639-3: bkk,” “Wikipedia, accessed February 3,2018,

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talk:Astore\\_Valley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talk:Astore_Valley)

<b>Gilgiti dialect sub group</b>	<b>Astori dialect sub group</b>	<b>Chilas dialect sub group</b>
79%-99%	81%-96%	84%-98%

Moreover, SIL in 2017 documentation of Shina identified Shina as Scl.<sup>15</sup>

<i>Identifier</i>	Scl
<i>Name</i>	Shina
<i>Status</i>	Active
<i>Code set</i>	ISO 639-3
<i>Scope</i>	Individual
<i>Type</i>	Living

Gurez or Gurāi in the local language of Shina<sup>16</sup>, is a valley located in high Himalayas about 53 miles from Bandipore district and 76 miles from Srinagar in northern Kashmir and southern Gilgit-Baltistan<sup>17</sup>. Since the valley of Gurez is closer to the Burzil pass, which is an entrance to Astor, a district of Gilgit-Baltistan, the natives are called as Dards or Shin people<sup>18</sup>. Therefore, their primary language is Shina language and the dialect spoken by people of Gurez is Gurezi dialect. It varies from the Drasi dialect spoken in Dras, Kargil. The table below shows the difference in both the Drasi and Gurezi dialect of Shina.

**Table 2:** Difference between Gurezi dialect of Shina and Drasi Shina

<b>Name of the Dialect</b>	<b>Spoken in</b>	<b>Family</b>	<b>Words</b>	<b>Gloss</b>
Drasi	Dras	Indo-Aryan	/ʃdī/	Monkey
			/bīri/	Lake
			/mu:s/	Flood
			/dok/	Mud
			/krokus/	Crow
Guraisi	Gurais	Indo-Aryan	<b>Words</b>	<b>Gloss</b>
			/pʰnzu/	Monkey
			/yeb/	Lake
			/εpu/	Flood

<sup>15</sup> Herald Hammarstrom, Robert Forkel, and Martin Haspelmath, eds., *Shina Glottolog 3.0*, (jena Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, 2017)

<sup>16</sup>“Gurez,” Wikipedia, accessed 24 March, 2018 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gurez>

<sup>17</sup>“Gurez,” Wikipedia, accessed 24 March, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gurez>, accessed on 24 March, 2018

<sup>18</sup>“Gurez,” Wikipedia, accessed 24 March, 2018, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gurez>

			/tʃi:tʃil/	Mud
			/kaa/	Crow

### 1.1 Historical Significance of Gurez

Gurez used to be an important part of Dardistan, stretching between Sharada Peeth and Minimarg and Dras and Bagtore in the south<sup>19</sup>. The valley used to be a stopover of ancient silk route between Kashmir valley, connecting it with Gilgit-Baltistan and continuing further to Kashgar. George Grierson puts forward that Shina, which is the native language of Dards or the people of Gurais is the origin of Kashmiri language. He also provides an evidence for it as he argues that the original script of Kashmiri language is the Sharda script. The Sharda university as well Sharda temple are present in the Neelum valley which used to be a part of Gurez). It was Maharaja Gulab sing who conquered Ladakh, an area in northern Jammu and Kashmir and the Valley of Gurez which was earlier a part of Dardistan in 1840 and in the same period, Gulab Singh adjoined the Valley of Gurez with Jammu & Kashmir state.<sup>20</sup>

The natives of the valley of Gurez are also referred as Dards because of the Shina language which is the Dardic sub-group of Indo-Aryan language family. It was George A. Grierson who acknowledged that the languages spoken in the mountainous regions of Northern Kashmir, Afghanistan and Pakistan’s Gilgit-Baltistan should all be known as Dards<sup>21</sup>. Grierson argued that Dardic, which is related to the Indo-Aryan group of languages, encompasses three other groups<sup>22</sup> including: (1) The Kafir group, (2) The Khowar group and (3) The Dard group proper.

Georg Morgenstierne has refuted the linguistic basis of categorization put forward by Grierson<sup>23</sup>. He argues that, “... Dardic is simply a convenient term to denote a bundle of aberrant IA [Indo-Aryan] hill languages which in their relative isolation have been in a varying degree sheltered against the expanding influence of IA midland (Madhyadesha) innovations being left free to develop on their own.”<sup>24</sup>

### 1.2 Previous Studies and Mentions

In 1919, Sir George Grierson (Linguistic Survey of India, Vol. VIII, Part II) made a mention about Dards and said that all the languages spoken in mountainous regions of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Northern Kashmir should be called as Dards. Moreover, Ruth Laila Schmidt and

<sup>19</sup> “Gurez, “Wikipedia, accessed 25 March, 2018 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gurez#cite\\_note-3](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gurez#cite_note-3)

<sup>20</sup> “Cosmic Prince, “Maharaja Gulab Singh of Jammu and Kashmir, accessed 25 March, 2018 <http://islamicglobalhistory.blogspot.in/2009/02/maharaja-gulab-singh-of-jammu-and.html>

<sup>21</sup> George A. Grierson, *Linguistic Survey of India* (Vol. viii, part ii)

<sup>22</sup> Grierson, *Linguistic Survey*, (1919:2)

<sup>23</sup> Masica, Collin P., *The Indo-Aryan Languages* (Cambridge University press, 1993) 462.

<sup>24</sup> Georg Valentin von Munthe af Morgenstierne, *Morgenstierne* (1961: 139, cited in Peterson : 2006:22)

Razwal have worked on “A Grammar of the Shina language of the Indus Kohistan”<sup>25</sup>. It was Dr. B. B. Rajapurohit who worked on the Grammar of Shina Language (Based on the Dialect spoken around Dras)<sup>26</sup>. Apart from that, Grammar of the Shina (Ṣinā) language: consisting of a full grammar, with texts and vocabularies of the main or Gilgiti dialect and briefer grammars (with vocabularies and texts) of the Kohistani, Gurezi, and Drasi dialects was studied by Thomas Graham Bailey<sup>27</sup> in 1924.

### 1.3: Gurezi Dialect of Shina: An Under-documented Language

Gurezi dialect of Shina language comes under the living under documented languages. The present paper is an effort to examine and establish an updated status of Gurezi dialect of the Shina language. Shina is not a language, but it is a cluster of Indo-Aryan varieties which are mutually comprehensible but are distinctive linguistically. Moreover, Shina is one of the few Indo-Aryan languages with a written tradition.<sup>28</sup> However, Shina used to be an unwritten language a few decades ago.<sup>29</sup> There is not a standard orthography for the language yet.<sup>30</sup> Since a language dies about every two weeks with the loss of its last speakers<sup>31</sup>, similarly, Shina is in a danger of extinction because younger generation tends to have an affinity to the more dominant languages. The threat is from the spread of Kashmiri and Urdu, the most dominant languages spoken in Northern Kashmir as the younger generation go to schools where they pick up and learn both these languages fluently, therefore Gurezi Shina is prone to extinction. The inhabitants of the Valley of Gurez primarily use Gurezi Shina as their mother tongue to a lesser extent and Urdu serves as the *lingua franca*.

### 1.4 Research Questions

**Q1.** Is the vocabulary for certain Shina words different in Drasi dialect as compared to the Gurezi dialect spoken in north of Kashmir?

**Q2.** Why is the status of a phoneme attributed to 38 consonants only even though there are 49 consonants in Shina?

**Q4.** How many types of consonant modifications are recognized in Shina?

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<sup>25</sup> Ruth Laila Schmidt and Razwal Kohistani, A grammar of the Shina language of Indus Kohistan (2008)

<sup>26</sup> Dr. B. B. Rajapurohit, Grammar of Shina Language and Vocabulary (Based on the dialect spoken around Dras)

<sup>27</sup> Bailey, T. Grahame, Grammar of the Shina (Sina) Language (1924).

<sup>28</sup> Elena Bashir, *Dardic* (Routledge language family series. Y. London: Routledge, 2003), 818-94

<sup>29</sup> Ruth Laila Schmidt, *The Oral history of the Darma lineage of Indus Kohistan* (2003-2004), 61.

<sup>30</sup> Ruth Laila Schmidt and Razwal Kohistani, A grammar of the Shina language of Indus Kohistan” (2008),14.

<sup>31</sup> K.David Harrison, “Koro language discovered in India”, accessed March 15, 2018, <https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Latest-News-Wires/2010/1006/Koro-language-discovered-in-India>

Gloss	Lexime
By foot	/pé:dʌt/
Leaves	/pʌ:te/
Darkness	/tʰʌp/
Forest	/dʒe:t/
Fire	/pʰu:/
Cold	/tʂʌyé/

**Q5.** What are the different types of vowel modifications examined in Shina?

**Q6.** What is the current status of Shina language?

**Q7.** What are the different types of numbers, pronouns, gender, and case suffixes employed in Shina?

**Q8.** How does the phenomenon of Language Shift make Shina language spoken in the Valley of Gurez prone to extinction?

## 2. Phonology

### 2.1 Vowels

Shina has 10 segmental vowels<sup>32</sup> system as given in the below table.

**Table 3:** Segmental Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
			/u/
Lower High	/e/		/o/
Higher Low	/ɛ/	/ə/	/ʌ/, /ɔ/
Low		/a/	

The various vowels which are short and long vowels<sup>33</sup> present in the above examples are ε, a, u, which are used by the natives of the valley of Gurez.

### 2.2 Consonants

There are about 49 consonants<sup>34</sup> in the Shina language but out of 49, only 38<sup>35</sup> consonants have the status of a phoneme. Other consonants which are 11<sup>36</sup> in number are taken from other languages including Urdu, Balti, Kashmiri and English. Thus, the 38 consonant phonemes are mentioned in the table given below on the basis of their articulatory properties.

<sup>32</sup> Dr. B.B. Rajapurohit, *Grammar of Shina Language and Vocabulary*, (Based on the dialect spoken around Dras), 28.

<sup>33</sup> Rajapurohit, *Grammar of Shina*, 28.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid., 33.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid., 33.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid., 33

**Table 4:** Consonants in Shina

**2.3 Marginally occurring consonants**

	<b>Bilabia-l</b>	<b>Labio - dental</b>	<b>Alveola -r</b>	<b>Retrofle -x</b>	<b>Palata -l</b>	<b>Vela -r</b>	<b>Uvula -r</b>	<b>Glotta -l</b>
<b>S vl-</b>	P		t	ʈ		k		
<b>t un-</b>								
<b>o vl-</b>	p <sup>h</sup>		t <sup>h</sup>	ʈ <sup>h</sup>		k <sup>h</sup>		
<b>p as-</b>								
<b>S vd-</b>	b		d	ɖ		g		
<b>Un-</b>								
<b>Af vl-</b>			ts	ʈʂ	tʃ			
<b>fr un-</b>								
<b>ic vl-</b>			ts <sup>h</sup>	ʈʂ <sup>h</sup>	tʃ <sup>h</sup>			
<b>at as-</b>								
<b>es vd-</b>			dz		dʒ			
<b>un-</b>								
<b>Nasals</b>	M		n	ɳ		ŋ		
<b>Lat.Approxi mant</b>			l					
<b>Trill</b>			r					
<b>Frica- vl</b>			s	ʂ	ʃ	X		h
<b>Fricatives vd-</b>			z	ʐ	ʒ	y		ɦ
<b>Approximan ts</b>		v			y			

There are 11 consonants in Shina which do not have the status of a phoneme as they are picked from Kashmiri, Urdu or Balti languages as already mentioned above. The reason being that natives from the valley of Gurez have migrated from their homeland to other places that has led to the influence of other languages on Shina. These 11 consonants are specified as under:

q ʔ ŋ ɲ r ɽ ϕ β f w ð χ

These 11 consonants also occur in free variations or certain environments. For instance, if we take the example of [q], it has a free variation with [k]. For example:

[qa:lí:n] which means Carpet

[Kúm:boq són] which means [Bishops weed]

Similarly, [ʔ] has a free variation with its absence. For example; [ʔóŋo] ~ [óŋo] which mean sickle.

### 3. Noun Morphology

Shina nouns are inflected for gender, number and case by morphosyntactic categories. Nouns are masculine or feminine, and count or non-count. All nouns in Shina are thus given a grammatical gender which may or may not coincide with natural gender. e.g. /pənk<sup>h</sup>a/ ‘Fan’ is masculine; /atʃ<sup>h</sup>i/ ‘eye’ is feminine. The distribution of gender to non-living objects may be either masculine or feminine and one can’t reason why one has assigned masculine or feminine to them.

Most males are masculine nouns in Shina. Most of the masculine nouns get suffixed with /o/ sound, and the rest is consonant ending. For example, /dá:do/ ‘grand-father’, /káko/ ‘brother’, & /bábo/ ‘father’. Similarly, most of the feminine nouns get suffixed with /i/ and the rest is consonant ending. For example, /dá:di/ ‘Grand-mother’, /káki/ ‘sister’, & /jũŋi/ ‘bitch’. There are many Shina words or lexemes which are inflectional for gender, number, and person, which are discussed in detail as:

#### 3.1 Gender

Shina language has a gender similar to Hindi and gender is natural in some words and gender marker is suffixed on others<sup>37</sup>.

**Table 5:** Masculine gender in Shina

S. No.	Noun	Masculine
1.	Man	/ mʌnũzɔ/
2.	Grandson	/pó:tʂo/
3.	Boy	/b:ál/
4.	Father	/mʌlu/
5.	He-Goat	/tʃ <sup>h</sup> əti:lɔ/
6.	Bear	/iʂ/
7.	Wolf	/úruk/
8.	Child	/tʃũŋo bá:l/
9.	Horse	/ áʃup/
10.	Lion	/ʃé:re bəbér/

**Table 6:** Feminine gender in Shina

S. No	Noun	Feminine
1	Woman	/tʃéi/
2	Grand-daughter	/pá:tʃi/

<sup>37</sup> Ibid., 45



3	Girl child	/tʃũŋi mulʌi/
4	Mother	/á:ze/
5	Female Bear	/kíʃ/
6	Sow	/úrkui/
7	Mare	/só:tʃi áʃhup/
8	Goat (she)	/ʔái/
9	Lioness	/sámiŋi/
10	Girl	/ mulʌi/

It should be noted that in case of feminine nouns, gender marker /i/ is suffixed as shown in above table. Moreover, the gender marker /e/ is also suffixed in case of a female noun. For e.g. /sin/ ‘river’ after adding the gender marker /e/ becomes /sine/ is rivers and similarly, /kʌʃ/ ‘marriage’ becomes /kʌʃe/ ‘marriages’.

### 3.2 Singular and Plural

In case of pluralisation in Shina, the vowel sounds such as /ē/, /eh/, /i/<sup>38</sup> are employed as a plural suffix, therefore without bringing any change to the singular forms. The various examples are cited below;

**Table 7;** Singular & plural in Shina

S. No.	Words	Singular	Plural
1.	Book	/kitáp/	/kitápe/
2.	Man	/mʌnúʒo/	/mʌnúʒe/
3.	Cat	/píʃu/	/píʃe/
4.	Cow	/gá:wo /	/gá:we/
5.	Puppy	/kʰukúr/	/ kʰukúri/
6.	Orchid	/bá:k/	/bʌkéh/
7.	Carrot	/ga:dʒár/	/ga:dʒréh/
8.	Apple	/pʌló/	/pʌle/
9.	Star	/táro/	/táre/
10.	Tree	/byěĩ/	/byěĩe/

### 3.3 Personal Pronouns

There are about 7 personal pronouns<sup>39</sup> in Shina and they are given in the **Table 8** below;

	Singular	Plural
1 <sup>st</sup> person	I /mo/	We /běĩ/

<sup>38</sup> Ibid .,41.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid., 44

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> person</b>	You /tu/	You /tʃ <sup>h</sup> o/
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> person</b>	He /a:v/ She /a:v/ It /ʌnu/	They /a:/ They /a:/ They /a:/

Plural /a:/ is generally employed in case of third person singular masculine (He), feminine (She) and for neutral genders.

Moreover, in the third person singular and plural, the usage of various pronouns is made applicable in order to indicate the proximate and remote objects as well as persons. Various examples have been given in the table below;

**Table 9: pronouns**

	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
<b>Proximate</b>	He a:v, /zɔ/ (proximate)	They (m) a:, /zɛ/ (proximate)
<b>Remote</b>	Neutral /pʌra:v/	They (neutral) /pʌra:/
<b>Proximate</b>	She a: /zɛ/	They (f) /əya:/ /zɛ/

### 3.4 Case Suffix

There are about seven cases in Shina<sup>40</sup> that are nominative, accusative, instrumental, dative, ablative, genitive and locative and these cases are in correspondence with the structure of Hindi, which is again an Indo-Aryan language.

**Table 10: Cases in Gurezi Shina**

	<b>Singular</b>		<b>Plural</b>	
	Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
Nom:	-∅	∅	∅	∅ (excl)
(Trans.)	-su	-su	-su	-su
Acc:	-∅	∅	∅	∅
Inst:	-ʒo	-ʒo	-ʒo	-ʒo
Dat:	-re	-re	-re	-re
Abl:	-ʒo	-ʒo	-ʒo	-ʒo
Gen:	-yo:	-ye:	∅	-éi
Loc:	-ʒa	-ʒa	-ʒa	-ʒa

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.,46

### 3.5 Basic Syntax of Shina

A simple sentence of Shina is a combination of subject and predicate. The predicate of a sentence consists of the verb as well as objects and therefore gives the information about the subject.

### 3.6 Word Order

The word order of Shina is similar as the sentence structure of Hindi, spoken in India and other Indo-Aryan languages of Dardic sub-group. Its subject comes in the first place, an object comes in the middle, and the verb comes in the final position and its primarily 'SOV' type.

A few examples of the syntax structure of Shina language are given below:

- (14) Ram só bríũ k<sup>h</sup>ev  
'Ram ate food.'  
N.M V N

The subject Ram comes first in the sentence. The object bríũ 'food' comes in the middle, and verb k<sup>h</sup>ev 'eats' comes in the last. In English, the order of object and verb is inverted from OV to VO. Here the verb k<sup>h</sup>ev 'eats' agrees with the subject Ram. We can also write the sentence as:

- (15) bríũ k<sup>h</sup>ev Ram só  
Food.N eat.V Ram.N.M Aux.  
'Ram eats food.'

- (16) bríũ Ram só k<sup>h</sup>ev  
Food Ram Aux. Eat  
N N.M AUX. V  
'Ram eats food.'

- (17) Ram só tja: pyo  
Ram drank tea  
N.M V N

- (18) tja: pyó Ram só  
Tea.N drink.V Ram.N.M Aux  
'Ram drinks tea'.

- (19) tja: Ram só pyó  
Tea Ram Aux. V  
N N.M Aux. V  
'Ram drank tea'.

- (20) Ram só kitap razó  
Ram read a book

N.M V N

(21) kitap razó Ram só  
 Book.N read.V N Aux.  
 ‘Ram read a book’.

(22) kitap Ram só razó  
 Book Ram Aux V  
 ‘Ram read a book

The word order in Shina is flexible to an explanation for the subject and the object as well. The word order of an assertive, negative, interrogative, and imperative remain different from each other. Moreover, the changes in person, number gender, case, aspect, tense, and mood are also observed in the Shina language.

### 3.7 Verb Morphology

A verb in a sentence plays a very significant role to tell us about the time and nature of the event. Similarly, in Shina language ‘-o:no’ suffix is employed as an infinitive marker when verbs are in isolation. Various examples are given in the **Table 11** below:

Gloss	-o:no Suffix
To sit	/beyó:no/
To pull	/lyó:no/
To eat	/k <sup>h</sup> ó:no/
To reduce	/k <sub>AM</sub> t <sup>h</sup> yó:no/

/-to/ is added to the verbs in Shina in case of the Conditional participles. The suffix /-to/ is an equivalent for ‘if’ in English.

**Table 12:** Conditional participles

Conditional participles	/-to/
If done	/t <sup>h</sup> yó:nto/
If reduced	/k <sub>AM</sub> t <sup>h</sup> yó:nto/
If pulled	/lyó:nto/
If brought	/ryó:nto/

In terms of 7 basic personal pronouns, the table below illustrates the use of intransitive and transitive verbs in Shina language;

The **intransitive verbs** are the basis for the simple present tense verbs.

**Table 13:** Intransitive Verbs in Gurezi Shina

	Singular	Plural
<b>First person</b>	(mf) /mu boʒó:mos/	(mf) /be oʒnʌs/ (m) /bẽĩ boʒnʌs/ (f) /bẽ boʒinʌs/
<b>Second person</b>	(mf) /tu bo/	(m) /ts <sup>h</sup> o bo:ʒa:/ (f) /ts <sup>h</sup> ε bo:ʒa:/
<b>Third person</b>	(m) /a:v bo:ʒʌŋ/ (f) /a: bo: ʒĩ:/ (n) /a:v bo:ʒʌŋ/	/a: boʒna:/ (mf) /a: boʒna:/ /a: boʒna:/

Simple present tense in Shina is formed by **transitive verbs**. The following are the examples of transitive verbs for the verb /dyó:no/ “to give”:

**Table 14: Transitive Verbs in Shina**

	Singular	Plural
<b>First person</b>	(mf) /mus dyó:mos/	(mf) /besu dyó:nʌs/ (m) /bẽĩsu dyó:nʌs/ (f) /bẽsu dyóinʌs/
<b>Second person</b>	(mf) /tusu dyó/	(m) /ts <sup>h</sup> osu dyóa:/ (f) /ts <sup>h</sup> εsu dyóã:/
<b>Third person</b>	(m.) /a:vsu dyóʌŋ/ (f) /a:su dyó:ĩ:/m (n) /a:vsu dyó:ʌŋ/	/a:su dyó:na:/ (mf) /a:su dyó:na:/ /a:su dyó:na:/

Thus, the **transitive verbs** are employed for the formation of simple present tense verbs<sup>41</sup>.

For Example:

**First person Singular**

- (17) mu boʒó:mos maɗʌrsá:  
I. go. School.  
I go to School

**Second person plural**

- (18) be oʒnʌs maɗʌrsá:  
we go school  
We go to school

**First person singular**

- (19) tu bo maɗʌrsá

<sup>41</sup> Ibid., 54

You go school  
You go to school

### **Second person plural**

(20) ts<sup>h</sup>o bo:za: mΛdΛrsá:  
You go school  
You go to school

### **Third person singular**

(21) a:v bo:zĩ mΛdΛrsá:  
She goes school  
She goes to school

### **Third person plural**

(22) a: bo:zna: mΛdΛrsá:  
They go school  
They go to school

Similarly, in case of transitive verbs, the simple past tense verbs in a sentence will be:

### **First person singular**

(23) musu dyó:mos zΛkΛt  
I. SG give. V charity. N  
I give charity

### **Second person plural**

(24) besu dyó:nΛs zΛkΛt  
We.PL give. V charity.N  
We give charity

### **First person singular**

(25) tusu dyó zΛkΛt  
You.SG give. V charity. N  
You give charity

### **Second person plural**

(26) ts<sup>h</sup>osu dyóa: zΛkΛt

You.PL give.V charity.N  
You give charity

### First person singular

(27) a:vsu dyó:ĩ: zAkAt  
They.SG give.V zakat.N  
They give charity

### Second person plural

(28) a:su dyó:na: zAkAt  
They.SG give.V charity.N  
They give charity.

## 3.8 Equational and Existential verbs:

The verb /hãv/ ‘to be’ is used as copula in equational sentences.<sup>42</sup> various examples which can be used in order to illustrate the verb / hãv/ are under:

(29) pArá:de púfe tʃe: hã  
There.Adv cats.N three.Num verb  
There are three cats.

(30) á:nni fúŋŋi du hã:  
here dogs.N two.Num verb  
Here are two dogs

(31) á:ni pAnzé du hẽ  
here monkeys.N two.Num verb  
Here are two monkeys

## 4. Morpho-syntactic Features of Gurezi Shina

### 4.1 Adjectives

Adjectives as qualifiers are of two types in Shina: Variable and Variant. They generally precede the noun they qualify. Adjectives in direct form, end in /o/ in singular masculine gender, and /i/ in singular feminine gender.

For Example:

(32) zó hú dzáro manúzo  
He.SG is.AUX old.ADJ man.N

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<sup>42</sup> Ibid., 55

He is an old man.

(33) tʃúŋo bá:l si biskú:t k<sup>h</sup>ev  
small.ADJ boy.N biscuit.N ate.V  
small boy ate the biscuit

(34) zo hú bʌŋo tolyá:  
It is.AUX big.ADJ towel.N  
It is a big towel

Therefore, it should be noted here that all the final vowels end with /o/ in case of masculine nouns. Similarly, in case of feminine nouns, the vowels end with /i/.

For Example:

(35) zé he dzári dádih  
She.SG is.Aux old .Adj woman.N  
She is an old woman.

(36) bo:tól tʃuni me:súdʒ tʃiré  
Bottle.N small.Adj table.N keep.V  
Keep the bottle on the small table

## 4.2 Agreement of Adjectives

The nouns or pronouns with genitive case suffix function as adjectives of the noun that follows it<sup>43</sup> :

When a noun is plural, the final vowel of the noun is changed from /o/, /u/ to /e/.

For Example:

<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
(37) myé kitáp My.SG book. N My book	myé kitápe My.SG books.PL My books.
(38) myé pífi My.SG Cat.N My cat.	myé pífe My.SG Cats.PL My cats.
(39) zenni gá:v	zenni gá:ve

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<sup>43</sup> Ibid., 50



Their.PL cow.N	Their.PL cows.PL
Their cow.	Their cows.

### 4.3 Ordinal Adjectives

Numerals also belong to the class of adjectives and in Shina, there are Ordinal adjectives.

For example, in case of masculine nouns, we have:

The ordinal form for /ek/ 'one' in Shina is /ekmúko/

The ordinal form for /du:/ 'two' in Shina is /dumó:go/

The ordinal form for /tʃe/ 'three' in Shina is /tʃemó:go/

(40) zɔ hu myó tʃálúkú ba:l  
 He.SG is.Aux my.N first.OAdj boy.N  
 He is my first boy.

(41) zɔ hu myó dumó:go ba:l  
 He.SG is.Aux my.N second.OAdj boy.V  
 He is my second boy.

(42) zɔ hu myó tʃemó:go ba:l  
 He.SG is.Aux my.N third.OAdj boy.N  
 He is my third boy.

The final vowel and the preceding consonant changes<sup>44</sup> in case of the ordinals of the female nouns.  
 For example:

(43) zé hɛ myé tʃalúkí sʌs  
 She.SG is.Aux. my.N first.OAdj sister.N  
 She is my first sister.

(44) zé hɛ myé dumó:ki sʌs  
 She.SG is.Aux my .N second.OAdj sister.N  
 She is my second sister.

(45) zé hɛ myé tʃemó:ki sʌs  
 She.SG is.Aux my.N third.OAdj sister.N  
 She is my third sister.

### 4.4 The Agreement of Adjectives with the Noun in Number

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<sup>44</sup> Ibid; 50

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| (46) myo fáko ‘my arm’                | (47) mye fáke ‘my arms’                 |
| (48) t <sup>h</sup> o gá:v ‘your cow’ | (49) t <sup>h</sup> e gáve ‘your cows’. |
| (50) zesso júŋ ‘his dog’              | (51) zenne júŋe ‘his dogs’              |
| (52) zessu ʌtʂí: ‘her eye’            | (53) zesse ʌtʂé: ‘her eyes’             |

It is noticeable here that the final vowel if the above pronouns changes from –o/-ɪ/ to –e, when the nouns are plural.

### 5. Current Status of Shina

According to the Expanded Graded Intergenerational Disruption level, abbreviated as EGID (Lewis and Simon, 2010), the EGID level for the Shina language<sup>45</sup> in its primary country, Pakistan is 6A (Vigorous) - meaning that the language is used for face-to-face communication by all generations and the situation is sustainable.

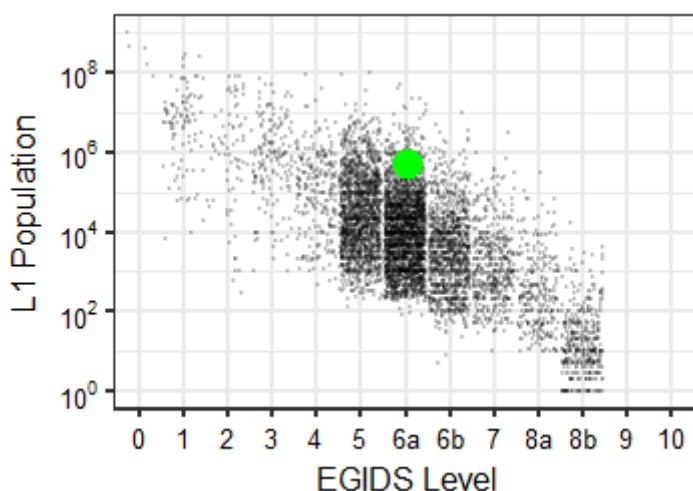


Fig: Graph showing EGIDS level for Shina language<sup>46</sup>

The graph above highlights the place of Shina language within the cloud of various other living languages in the world in the EGIDS level. The Shina language is represented by the large green coloured dot. Green = 6A (Vigorous)- The language is not standardized and is in vigorous use among all generations.

<sup>45</sup> *Ethnologue Languages of the World, Shina, A language of Pakistan*, accessed February 20, 2018, <https://www.ethnologue.com/language/scl>

<sup>46</sup> *Shina Ethnologue, 'Wikipedia', accessed February 20, 2018*, <https://www.ethnologue.com>

As far as the current status of Shina in north Kashmir's valley of Gurez is taken into consideration, according to the questionnaires prepared, the natives have agreed upon the fact that they have lost their mother language to the ongoing clash between the youngsters and old generation in which the youngsters are prioritizing Kashmiri, Urdu and English taught in the educational institutions, thereby forgetting their own mother tongue. The elders of one of the villages of Gurez valley expressed their vows against the authorities in power who have been compelling them to vacate from their respective land because of the establishment of Kishenganga dam project. They have been vocal about the fact that the government has not been much successful in preserving the Shina language as well as the culture of Dards. They believe that a time will come when Shina will totally get vanished from the face of North Kashmir's Gurez. After highlighting these facts, Shina language in the valley of Gurez can for sure be treated as a threatened language which would soon become extricated if a serious commitment and contemplation is not shown by the natives and the authorities to safeguard its rich language and cultural diversity.

## 6. Reviving the Shina language

Shina language has only 37,992 speakers in the valley of Gurez<sup>47</sup>, due to a number of reasons. The ongoing Kishenganga Project, by the government of India, has compelled the natives to migrate from their motherland towards other places. Many natives have moved from their respective valley to district Bandipora, (Madar, Ahamshareif, Lawdara, Bankoot, Matrigham) and the city of Srinagar occupying the areas of Bemina, Shalteng, Chanpora, and Kralpora.

Moreover, because of the Economic mobility, inter-cultural marriages as well as the intra-migration, Shina speakers have lost their mother language and have gravitated towards Kashmiri and Urdu languages. Since language is a medium or carrier of culture and traditions, therefore this so-called language shift has led to the adulteration of the life-long history of the culture of Dards. Therefore, the phenomenon of language shift and the Dards living in minority among the dominant group of people, where Kashmiri and Urdu have the upper hand over Shina, it has caused the language itself to be prone to extinction. Dards from the valley are suffering from identity crisis and the loss of Dardic culture. The main obstacle is the laxity and carelessness of both the native speakers of the language as well as the authorities who do not demand a status of a language for Shina.

Shina has a rich cultural as well as linguistic diversification as any other spoken languages in its phonology, morphology, as well as syntax. It is the mother language of the natives of Dras, Kargil, and the Valley of Gurez in northern Kashmir of India. Therefore, this language can be effectively used as a medium of instruction in the primary schools as well. Moreover, the first academic dissemination entitled, Shina Zaban: Sauti Nizam Aur Rasm ul Khat (Shina language, phonetics and Script) has been declared publicly and the research-based publication is accredited to Masood Samoon.

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<sup>47</sup> "Gurez Tehsil- Bandipora, (census 2011). Accessed on March 10, 2018, <https://www.census2011.co.in/data/subdistrict/40-gurez-bandipora-jammu-and-kashmir.html>

The paper aims at bringing back Shina as a means of expression and medium of instruction. A serious dedication and commitment from the natives and authorities is highly demanded. Shina should be also welcomed as a third language in educational institutions just like Kashmiri, Hindi and Urdu. The writers should be encouraged to write in their mother tongue as Shina has a script like any other language. Culture and traditionalism of the natives is to be preserved through documentation and similarly other necessary steps have to be taken in favour of the language to protect it from a sudden death and extinction.

## 8. Conclusion

The paper summarizes some grammatical features of Shina language. Due to the prolonged contact with Hindi, Kashmiri and Urdu speakers, the natives of Gurez have borrowed the script and few lexical items from these languages. Despite this, Shina is a different language and does not show any mutual intelligibility with Hindi, Kashmiri and Urdu.

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Gurezi Shina: A Typological Sketch

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