

## **A NOTE ON CASE EXPRESSIONS IN SHINA OF GUREZ**

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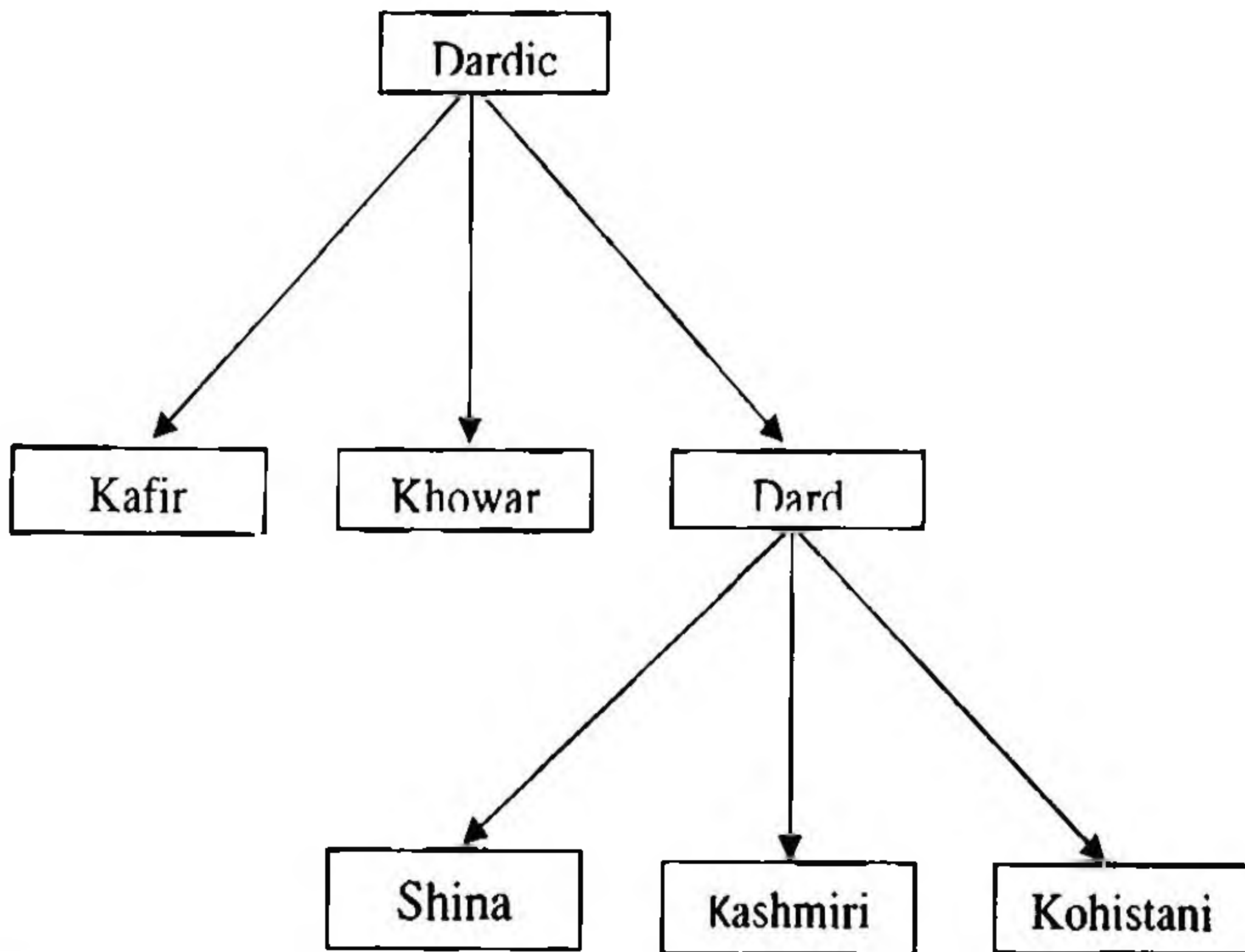
Shina is spoken over a wide extent of the area named Dardistan—a term coined by George Leitner in his famous travelogue *Dardistan*. The eastern part of its southern boundary is the mountain range lying immediately to the north of the valley of the Kashmir, i.e. the range to the north of the Sind River. To the east of that is the Dras River. From a point a little to the west of Dras, the eastern boundary follows a line northwest to the Indus, crossing the Indus a few miles above the junction of the Indus and Gilgit Rivers. From the north of Gilgit, the northern boundary goes southwest to the mountain crests lying to the north of Chilas, and then follows the line of the Indus valley down past Sazin, Tangir, Jalkot to a point a little more than half way between Chilas and Amb which is a town to the west of Abbotabad. The western part of the southern boundary may be said to be the mountain chain to the south of the Indus from this point back towards Chilas, keeping north of the Kagan valley. From the head of the Kagan valley, a straight line to Haramuk will join the eastern part of this boundary. The Shina country may thus be said to include the Gures (Gurez) and Tilel valleys on the south drained by the Kishenganga River, the valley of the Burzil River to Burzil, the districts of Astor, Gilgit, Chilas and Kohistan down the Indus. Within these limits, Shina is the only language spoken, but one must remember that the Gurez and Tilel people are bilingual and speak Kashmiri well.

Shina is a fascinating language, as is the valley of Gurez, where one of the dialects of Shina (Gurezi) is spoken. Gurez valley is extremely picturesque as the river comes dashing along through a rich meadow, partly covered with lindens, walnut and willow trees, while the mountains on either side present nothing but a succession of the most abrupt precipices and Alpine lodges, covered with fir trees. Sir George Grierson in his *Linguistic Survey of India* (1919) studied Shina in detail. The study remains unchallenged till date. Thomas Grahame Bailey has

written a comprehensive volume on it. The book *Grammar of Shina Language* covers this language to the minutest detail.

### GENETIC CLASSIFICATION OF SHINA

Shina has been classified by Grierson as belonging to the Dard group- a sub group of Dardic group of languages. Grierson classifies Dardic as being composed of Kafir, Khowar and the Dard sub-groups. The Dard is in itself composed of Shina, Kashmiri and Kohistani. It can be shown diagrammatically as:



### DATA

The paper is based on voice recordings taken from various informants from Gurez whose native language is Shina. The data were recorded using sophisticated voice recorders using 48 kHz 16 bit rate for recording the data.

### CASE IN GUREZI SHINA

Case is a syntactic feature of noun phrases which may or may not be realized morphologically. In syntactic terms case is overt when realized morphologically and covert when not realized morphologically. Case is a universal grammatical notion which every argument (NP) of a sentence must possess to be grammatical since the case filter does not allow any noun phrase to be case less in a sentence.

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The case filter does not allow any NP to function in a sentence without the case. (\*NP, if NP does not have a case).

An analysis of Shina spoken in Gurez reveals many cases. By the usage of postpositions, we may add few more to the list. Grierson has given only four cases of the Shina of Gurez which are nominative, agentive, genitive and dative. However, Bailey admits that the use of postpositions yields many more cases like ablative, sociative and locative in Shina but the same has not been applied to the Shina of Gurez by Bailey himself. Grierson too has omitted the explanation of cases like 'sociative' and 'ablative' etc. in Gurezi Shina. Ruth Laila Schmidt describes cases in the Shina of Indus Kohistan. However, the Gurezi dialect of Shina has not been much focused upon by the linguists of the world in general and those of the sub-continent in particular. Bailey gives much coverage to Gilgiti dialect than any other dialect. Similarly Carla Radloff (1999) focuses on Gilgiti Shina in her book *Aspects of the Sound System of Gilgiti Shina*. Since neither Grierson nor Bailey has given any detailed analysis of the cases of Gurezi Shina, the present paper aims to give a detailed analysis of the case system of Shina spoken in Gurez.

### **NOMINATIVE**

It is unmarked and is seen in the subject of a sentence e.g.

1. mo go:zh-ji ho:s

I-nom house-in am

"I am in the house"

2. ra:m ek ba:l ho:s

ram-nom a boy is

"Ram is a boy".

3. si:ta ek mulay he:s

sita-nom a girl is

"Sita is a girl".

Similarly words like muša, pučh, sass and čei referring to man, son, sister and woman respectively are unmarked and used in the nominative sense when they act as subjects in sentences having most of the times stative verbs.

## AGENTIVE

Agentive case, as the name suggests, is possessed by a noun phrase which has the power of action or the property to be an agent of the sentence whose verb is an action verb e.g. pučh-se 'son' is marked for agentive case with -se being the case suffix which is attached to the nominative stem.

Bailey calls it an interesting phenomenon saying that it has apparently no similarity to the old Indo-Aryan.

4. zhesi čo:ra raTo:

You-ag thief catch-past

You caught the thief.

5. mosu ga:v kuTa:s

I-ag cow beat-past

I beat the cow.

/-su/ is the ergative case ending in the Shina of Skardu.

## DATIVE

The suffixes -ta and -te are used for dative case by adding them to the nominative stem e.g.

Nominative

musha 'man'

pučh 'son'

čei 'woman'

Dative

musha-t 'to the man'

pučh-at 'to the son'

če-te 'to the woman'

/-te/ is also used in the sense of "for" as;

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6. mosu go:menTe: ka:ryo: kro:nthomo:s

I-ag government-for work do-past

“I worked for the government”.

However, Grierson uses the suffixes -t,-at,-it and -ut in the singular and -ont in the plural.

### ABLATIVE

Bailey gives jo-ja as the postposition meaning ‘from’ and aja meaning ‘upon’ in Kohistani. However, a phonetically similar suffix -ji with various meanings is found in the Shina of Gurez which marks a noun for ablative case e.g. go:zhji meaning ‘from the house’. The modern ablative suppressive suffix -ji (got from a condensation of jo - ja) expresses both movement away from something (Urdu se) and location on or at something (Urdu par).

### INSTRUMENTAL

The instrumental case in the Shina of Gurez is got by adding a postposition -gi (with) to the nominative stem. It occurs as a bound form partially e.g.

7. mosu a:ragi ka:Tu čhin'a:s

(<sup>j</sup>) denotes palatalization

I-ag saw-inst wood cut-past

I cut the wood with a saw.

8. mosu me:va kaDa:rgi čhin'a:s

I-ag fruit knife-with slice-past

I sliced the fruit with a knife.

9. pučh-se čhile: kaDa:rgi Dartha:s

the son-ag clothes knife-with tear-past

The son tore the clothes with a knife.

Schmidt (2008) too shows the instrumental case in Kohistani in which the postposition -gi has the variant forms -gita and -giti which are very rare but nonetheless present in the Shina of Kohistan, e.g.;

10. borqa gita

veil-obl with

With a veil

## GENITIVE

In Gurezi Shina three genitive suffixes are used one each for masculine singular and feminine singular and one for plural (both masculine and feminine). These are given as below.

Masc.sg	Fem.sg	Plural
o	ei	e

It changes according to the number and gender of the word qualified much like Kashmiri. However, Grierson shows no difference of genitive suffix with regard to number and gender of the nominal stem.

## ACCUSATIVE

It is similar to the nominative and is unmarked, used at the object position of a sentence e.g.

11. pira: ek šaedi bil.

That is a monkey.

12. a:ni ča:r to:te hā:

These are four parrots.

## LOCATIVE

Locative case markers -da and -de and -maji meaning 'in, at and in the middle of' are found mostly in case of Kohistani where they are added to nominative or oblique stems.

13. sin-da

river-nom in

In the river

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14. pon-da

road-nom on

On the road

15. ek raati maji

one night-nom in

Within one night

### SOCIATIVE

The sociative suffix *-se* shows location with something. It is attached regularly to the oblique case of nouns and pronouns and tends to occur as a bound form with nouns ending in vowels but as an independent postposition with pronouns or infinitives ending in consonants. A free postposition *-saati* is used to mark a noun for sociative case, e.g.

Nominative sg

azhu 'cloud'

Sociative sg.

azhu-se

'with the cloud'

In Gurezi dialect sociative case is rare and is not reported by Grierson at all. But it does exist there as shown in the above example.

### POSTPOSITIONS

Postpositions are added to nominal stems to mark them for various cases. They are usually free morphemes occurring as independent elements but most of the times added as suffixes. In Shina, the postpositions are free or independent words with accents. They are not bound morphemes usually but may be bound at times. These are normally invariant forms same for singular and plural. Some examples are as below.

1. Locative postposition *-da*. It is added to the nominative case noun and means 'in' and sometimes 'on, at' e.g.

16. sin-da

River-nom in

In the river

2. -maji 'in the middle of', among, between, within e.g.

17. karoo- maji

ram-obl among

Among the rams

3. Instrumental postposition

-gi is the instrumental postposition. It has -gita and -giti as alternate forms which are seen in Kohistani. It is not found in the Shina of Gurez where only -gi exists as;

a:ra-gi            with the saw

kaDa:r-gi        with the knife

In Kohistani the variant forms -giti and -gita are used to a large extent.

borqa-gita        With a veil

4. hati ( by names of): It shows a human being as the agent. The following table enlists the post positions used in Shina spoken in the Gurez valley.

Postposition	Meaning
-o	Of , sign of genitive
-t, -te, -it, -at,-ut	To, sign of genitive, For
-izh	To, at, in, on
-o, lo	From, sign of ablative
-el	Near
-sei	Along with



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ei, si	By – Sign of agentive
patō:	After

### CONCLUSION

Although different varieties of Shina have been studied in detail by scholars like Grierson and Bailey, Shina of Gurez has not received the attention it deserved. Grierson has sparsely touched phonology and morphology of Gurezi Shina while as Bailey has almost kept it untouched. With regard to case expressions, Grierson talks about only four cases in Shina of Gurez while as Bailey has dealt with Shina of Gilgit only. The analysis of the data collected for the present study revealed the presence of ablative, instrumental, locative and sociative cases in addition to the nominative, agentive, dative, accusative and genitive given by Grierson. The present study is a humble effort to study Shina of Gurez on linguistic lines and it is duly hoped that it will pave way for further research on this variety of Shina.

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