Cases in Paddari Language

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Abstract

Paddari language belongs to western Pahari sub-group of Indo- Aryan language family. It is primarily spoken in Padder area of District Kishtiwar of Jammu region. As per the census of 2011 there are approximately 21,550 speakers of Paddari. The language has been enlisted in the endangered language list of UNESCO. In an attempt to document the language a detailed description of grammatical cases in Paddari language is given in this paper.

Keywords: Paddari, Endangered Language, Documentation, Case

Introduction

The Area

The Chenab valley of Jammu region is known for its cultural heritage, linguistic diversity and ethical values. The region comprises of Doda, Kishtiwar and Ramban districts. The overall population of Chenab valley as per the census of 2011 is 13 lacs approximately. The region share its boundaries with Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir to the north, the Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh and Kuthua district to the South, Udhampur district to the South and Salal Reasi Subdivision to the west. District Doda is situated in the middle of the valley. Majority of the area of Chenab valley comprises of hilly terrains. As said earlier Chenab valley is home to the variety of ethnic groups, the major languages which are spoken in the Chenab valley are Siraji, Bhaderwahi, Kashmiri, and Rambani. There are also some minor languages spoken in Chenab valley which are enlisted in the endangered languages group. These languages include Meshabi, Khash, Paddari, Khana, Hassadi Gojapuri etc. The diversity has thus provided a great scope to the researchers to carry out the cultural and linguistic studies in the area. The present paper is an attempt to carry out a linguistic study of one of the minor languages i.e, Paddari which is also enlisted in the endangered language list as the speakers of the said language are very few in number and needs to be documented for its protection and preservation.

Language

Paddari is an Indo-Aryan language primarily spoken in Paddar area of District Kishtawar of Jammu and Kashmir. According to G. A. Grierson, "Paddari is an Indo-Aryan language which belongs to the western Pahari sub-group of Indo-Aryan language family." As per the census of 2011, the overall population of Paddari speakers is 21,550 approx. of which 11,277 are males and 10,271 are females. Majority of Paddari people are settled on the hilly terrains of Kishtawar District. There are thirty villages in Paddar area in which Paddari is spoken. These villages are sparsely located and have least or no connectivity with main town of Kishtawar. The majority of the population of Paddari follows Hindu religion.

Methodology

An intensive fieldwork was carried out by the researchers in Padder area of Kishtawar region for the collection of data. The data was collected from the native speakers of Paddari language by recoding the responses of the informants. Highly sophisticated recorders were used to collect the data. Before the collection of the data a questionnaire comprising of almost 500 sentences was compiled by the researchers keeping in mind the cases present in the language can be identified from those sentences. Some questions related to the origin, history and cultural aspects were also included in the questionnaire. Apart from the questionnaire the interview method and observation method were also followed. The recoded data was then transcribed by following proper transcription rules. The analysis was also done according to the prescribed rules.

Case

Case is defined as the grammatical category which is determined by the syntactic and semantic functions of nouns and pronouns or in simple terms we can say that a case is a grammatical function of nouns and pronouns according to the relation with the rest of words in a sentence. Cases can be overt or covert depending on the type and family of language it belongs to. There many types of cases which can be classified on the basis of the occurrences and grammatical function in a particular language. In Paddari language following types of cases are found:

- **Nominative Case**

Nominative case is the case that identifies clause subjects in nominative-accusative languages. Nouns used in isolation have this case. Nominative case has no phonological representation in Paddari language; hence it is covert in nature. Examples are provided below:

/aũ baza:r gɛ:na:/
1SG-NOM market go-PRS
'I go to the market'
/to:ta: bu:ɖʰ pe ona:/
Parrot-NOM tree PP be-PRS
'The parrot is on the tree'
/ e: wo: kʰakaɖ ini/
3SGF-NOM there stand-PRS be.AUX
'She stands there'

- **Ergative Case**

Ergative case is the grammatical case that identifies the noun as a subject of a transitive verb. It is usually found in ergative-absolutive languages or the languages showing split ergativity. In Paddari language ergative case is found only in past form of the sentences.

/asa: baza:r e:k tso:r pakɖon/
3SGM-ERG market DET thief catch-PST
'He caught the thief in market'

/ta:mo: ba:gɨtʃo: lakʰɨ gəi:na/
3PL-ERG field pp walk-pst
'They walked around the field'

- **Accusative Case**

Accusative case is the case in nominative-accusative languages that marks certain syntactic functions, usually direct objects. In Paddari the case markers for accusative case are not overt. Examples are given below:

/ʃike:ri hiran pakɖo:na/
hunter-ERG deer-ACC catch-PST
'The hunter caught the deer'

/ ɛ:ni ʧidijo:l ma:rijo:/
3SGM-ERG bird-SG-ACC kill-PST
'He killed the bird'

/e: ʧiɖjjo:l e:rni:/
3SGF bird-SG-ACC see-PRS
'She sees the bird'

- **Dative Case**

Dative case is a case that marks indirect objects (for languages in which they are held to exist) or the Nouns having the role of recipient (as of things given), beneficiary of an action or possessor of an item. Examples of dative case in Paddari are given below.

/sitaːji memaːno rutʲ kʰləjin/
Sita-ERG guest-PL-DAT food serve-PST
'Sita served the food to the guests'

/raːmə ʃaːmas kitaːb ditijo iniː/
Ram-ERG Shyam-DAT book give-PST AUX
'Ram gave the book to Shyam'

- **Instrumental Case**

Instrumental case is a grammatical case used to indicate that a noun is the instrument or means by or with which the subject achieves or accomplishes an action. The noun may be either a physical object or an abstract concept. In Paddari instrumental case is shown by the postposition like /ze/. The examples are provided below:

/nau ek radʒui **ze** rãɖo iniː/
Boat DET. rope-SG INS tie-PST AUX-PRS
'The boat is tied to the shore with rope'

/penki **ze** kaʈʰoː kaːʈa/
axe-SG INS tree-SG cut-PRS
'The tree is cut with axe'

/raːmɨ mjoː kalmɨ
ze tʃiʈʈʰiː likʰjoini/
Ram-ERG 1SG-GEN pen
INS letter write-PST
'Ram wrote the letter with my pen'

- **Ablative Case**

Ablative case is a case that expresses a variety of meanings including instrument, cause, location, source or time. In Paddari language the ablative case markers are /matɨ/, /zəguː/ etc.

Examples are as follows:
/ ãː jõː duaːri **matɨ** wĩɖzaːɖi guaː/
3SG 1SG.GEN window ABL fall-PST be-AUX-PR
'He fell down from my window'

/boɖʰɨ **zəgu**: panɨ zaɖa: lagʲona:/

tree-OBL ABL leaf-PL fall-PRS be-AUX-PRS

'The leaves fall from the tree'

- **Genitive Case**

Genitive case is a case in which the referent of the marked noun is the possessor of the referent of another noun. In Paddari, the Genitive case is shown by changing the declension of pronoun. Examples are as follows:

/ã: sab **mjõ**: ãdar e:n /

PROX.PL 1.SG.GEN home-PL be-AUX-PRS

'These are my houses'

/ã:sab **mjõ**: kita:b i:ni:/

REM.PL 1SG.GEN book-PL be-AUX-PRS

'Those are my books'

/ɛ: **wosa** tʃɔ:k ana/

PEM-SG 3SG-GEN knife be-AUX-PRS

'That is his knife'

- **Locative**

Locative case is a case that expresses location at the referent of the noun it marks. In Paddari locative case markers are /ene/, /pe/. Examples are as follows

/ mjõ: gəbar səku:l **ene/**

1SG.GEN child-PL school LOC

'My children are in the school'

/to:ta: bu:ɖʰ **pe** tʃaɖa: ona:/

parrot tree-OBL LOC climb-PRS be-AUX-PRS

'The parrot is on the tree'

Conclusion

Paddari language is primarily spoken in Padder area of District Kistiwar of Jammu and Kashmir. It belongs to Western Pahari sub-group of Indo-Aryan language family. In this paper various types of case found in Paddari language are discussed. Different types of cases are found in Paddari language such as, nominative case, ergative case, accusative case, ablative case, dative case, genitive case and locative case. All but nominative and accusative cases are overt in the language. Different markers are used to represent different cases in Paddari language. As Paddari is enlisted in the endangered language list by UNESCO, the present paper is an attempt to document this language, which could help in protection and preservation of the language.

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