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Phonological Description of Bhaderwahi

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Abstract

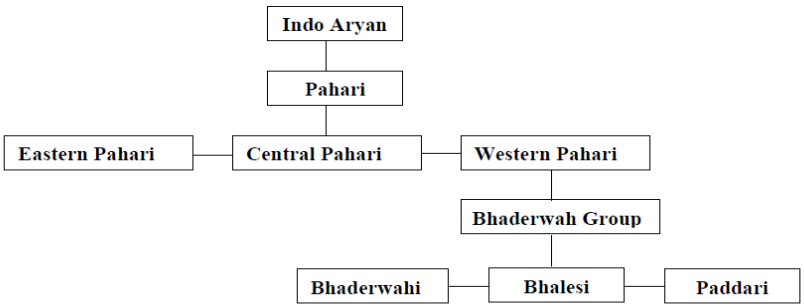
Bhaderwahi is spoken in Bhaderwah Tehsil of Doda District in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Other languages spoken in Bhaderwah are: Kashmiri, Ladakhi, Dogri, and some Pahari languages like Khashali, Gojri, Meshabi, Paddari etc.There are more than 50,000 speakers of Bhaderwahi. The present paper is an attempt to provide the Phonological Description of Bhaderwahi spoken in Bhaderwah.

Key Words: Vowel, Phoneme, Length, Minimal Pairs, Phonology, Consonant

1. Introduction

Linguistically, Jammu and Kashmir is a multi-lingual State. The state of Jammu and Kashmir comprises three main regions, namely, Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. Kashmiri is the mother tongue of people of the Valley of Kashmir and also the people residing in the areas like Doda, Bhaderwah, Kishtwar and Gool etc in the Jammu region. Dogri is the principal language spoken in Jammu, Kathua, Samba and R.S. Pura districts of Jammu division. In the Ladakh division of the State, Ladakhi, classified under Tibeto-Burman family of languages, is the major language in Leh district; Brokpa and Shina are the two languages spoken in the Kargil district.

G.A. Grierson (1919) has classified Bhaderwahi as Pahari language that belongs to Indo-Aryan language family. The word "Pahari" applies to the group of languages spoken in the Sub-Himalayan hills extending from Bhaderwah to the eastern parts of the Nepal. The Bhaderwahi group includes three dialects, viz Bhaderwahi, Bhalesi and Paddari.



1. Literature Review

G.A. Grierson (1919) has given brief description of Bhaderwahi and Bhalesi morphology.

Koul (2014) has given some of the common linguistic features of Bhaderwahi with the other dialects of western Pahari. He also talks about the influence of other languages like Dardic, Munda, Dravidian, Sanskrit, Prakrit and Hindi on Bhaderwahi.

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2. Methodology

For the present paper, intensive fieldwork has been carried out to collect data from various areas of Bhaderwah. A questionnaire was developed consisting of words and sentences to elicit data from the native speakers of Bhaderwahi. The Data was elicited from the informants by direct questioning and the corpus was developed by recording the responses of the native speakers of different age groups and varied educational backgrounds. The researcher made room recordings of the data by using highly sophisticated voice-recorders. The data was then transcribed and analysed using the appropriate principles and techniques of phonological description of language.

3. Segmental Phonemes of Bhaderwahi

Part of the phonological study of a language involves looking at data (phonetic transcriptions of the speech of native speakers) and trying to deduce what the underlying phonemes are and what the sound inventory of the language is.

1.1 Vowels

The Bhaderwahi language has seven vowels: i, e, a, o, u, ɨ, and ə. Vowel length is phonemic in Bhaderwahi language. Each vowel has a longer counterpart, except for ɨ and ə. All short and long vowels occur in nasalized form except for i, e and ɨ vowel. The oral vowels occur in word initial, medial and final positions while as some nasalized vowels do not occur in all positions. The vowels of Bhaderwahi are as under:

Short and long oral vowels

	Front		Central	Back	
High	i	i:	ɨ	u	u:
Mid	e	e:	ə	o	o:
Low				a	a:

4.2 Phonemic Description of Vowels

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

/i/ (high front unrounded short vowel)
itsʰ ˈbear' tsikar 'mud'

/i:/ (high front unrounded long vowel)
i:l 'vulture' zi:l 'root' miti: 'clay'

/e/ (mid front unrounded short vowel)
etsʰi: 'eye (pl)' devɖi: 'daughter's daughter' govɖe 'cowshed'

/e:/ (mid front unrounded long vowel)
e:pu: 'itself' be:ʈ 'bat' guɖe: 'doll (pl)'

/ɨ/ (high central unrounded short vowel)
muʈɨl 'urine ' bartɨ 'fast'

/a/ (low central unrounded short vowel)
agɨ 'fire' ʈʰanɖ 'cold' hafta 'week'

/aː/ (low central unrounded long vowel)
aːdat 'habit' daːt 'metal' kilaː 'fort'
/o/ (mid back rounded short vowel)
oɖkunu 'lid' ɖoʈ 'cat' pʰaŋo 'feather'
/oː/ (mid back rounded long vowel)
oːʈʰ 'lip' ɡoːɖoː 'horse' kʰoːtʰoː 'donkey'
/u/ (high back rounded short vowel)
unɖʰon 'slope' kuɖ 'cave' lapkunu 'lightning'
/uː/ (high back rounded long vowel)
buːdʒiː 'father's sister' keːɖuː 'wood'
/ə/ (mid central unrounded short vowel)
əmiːr 'rich' nərɨs 'nurse'

4.3 Phonemic Contrast of Vowels

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

/a/ vs. /aː/	/kaʈnuː/	'to bite'	/ kaːʈnuː/	'cut (cloth)'
	/dant/	'tooth'	/daːnt/	'bull'
/e/ vs./eː/	/tes/	'to her'	/teːs/	'when'

The following minimal pairs illustrate contrast between oral vowels in identical environments.

/a/ vs. /u/	/ baɖoː/	'big'	/ buɖoː/	'old man
	/ɡaɖ/	'river'	/ɡuɖ/	'jaggery'
	/talnuː/	'to fry'	/tulnuː/	'to weight'
/i/ vs. /u/	/ iɖiː/	'here'	/uɖiː/	'there'
/a/ vs. /e/	/ɖaɖ/	'ringworm'	/ɖeɖ/	'one & a half'

4.4. Nasal Vowels

All the vowels discussed above have nasal counterparts except for i, e and ɨ vowel. Nasalization is not phonemic in Bhaderwahi.

/ã/	ãv	'i'	ɖãv	'village'
/ãː/	ãːɡan	'courtyard'	ʈãːɡaː	'cart' kaːkɨlãː 'papers'
/ũ/	mũŋaː	'coral'		
/ũː/	bũːzal	'earthquake'	tsiɖalũː	'bird (pl)'
/õ/	tsõvar	'yak'		
/õː/	õːʈʰiː	'ring'	põːtsʰɖiː	'tail' lõː 'iron'
/ĩː/	zoːrãjsĩː	'loudly'		
/ ẽ /	bẽjõː oːʈʰ	'upper lip'		
/ ẽː /	ẽːkʰũː	'tears'	pẽːseː	'money'

4.5 Consonants

Thirty-four consonant phonemes were identified for Bhaderwahi language that are listed below. Consonants are classified into different groups on the basis of their manner and place of articulation. The consonants of Bhaderwahi are tabulated below.

		Bilabial	Labio-Dental	Alveolar-Dental	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Plosives	Voiceless	p		t	ʈ		k	
	Aspirated	pʰ		tʰ	ʈʰ		kʰ	
	Voiced	b		d	ɖ		ɡ	
	Aspirated	bʰ		dʰ	ɖʰ		ɡʰ	
Affricate	Voiceless			ts	tʃ			

	Aspirated						tsʰ			tʃʰ			
Voiced								dʒ					
Fricative	Voiceless			f	s					ʃ			h
Voiced				z									
Nasal			m					n		ɳ		ŋ	
Lateral								l					
Flap								r					
Glide				v						j			

4.6 Phonemic Contrast of Consonants

The consonant phonemes of Bhaderwahi language shown above have been established on the basis of the minimal pairs. Following minimal pairs illustrate the contrast between different consonant phonemes.

Voicing Contrast

/p/ vs. /b/

/pand/	'mat'	/band/	'close'
/pov/	'january'	/bov/	'father'

/t/ vs. /d/

/patar/	'behind'	/padar/	'ground'
/ta:r/	'wire'	/da:r/	'door'

/k/ vs. /g/

/kuɖ/	'cave'	/guɖ/	'jaggery'
/kan/	'ear'	/gan/	'honey bee'

/s/ vs . /z/

/as/	'we'	/az/	'today'

Aspirated

/ɖ/ vs. /ɖʰ/

/ɖaɖ/	'ringworm'	/ɖʰaɖ/	'rock'

4.7 Phonemic Description of Consonants

Consonants are classified into different groups on the basis of place and manner of articulation.

Plosives

/p/ (voiceless unaspirated bilabial stop)
pevɖi: 'staircase' lapã: 'flame' pa:p 'sin'

/pʰ/ (voiceless aspirated bilabial stop)
pʰu:ɖõ: 'flower ' pʰe:pʰɖo: 'lung'

/b/ (voiced unaspirated bilabial stop)
bũ:zal 'earthquake' ambar 'weather' amb 'mango'

/bʰ/ (voiced aspirated bilabial stop)
bʰagnu: 'to flow'

/t/ (voiceless unaspirated dental stop)
tala: 'pond' miti: 'clay' bat 'road'

/tʰ/ (voiceless aspirated dental stop)
tʰuva: 'goat (m)' kʰo:tʰo: 'donkey' hatʰ 'hand'

/g/ (voiced unaspirated velar stop)
gi:t 'song' balgɨnu: 'to wait ' nag 'gem'

/gʰ/ (voiced aspirated velar stop)
gʰo:ɖ 'stone' ma:gʰ 'February'

/ʈ/ (voiceless unaspirated retroflex stop)

ʈiʈʰu: ‘bitter ’ su:ʈu: ‘spine’ mi:ʈ ‘beef’

/ʈʰ/ (voiceless aspirated retroflex stop)

ʈʰig ‘waist’ guʈʰna: ‘knee’ ze:ʈʰ ‘husband's brother’

/ɖ/ (voiced unaspirated retroflex stop)

ɖa:ki: ba:lo: ‘postman’ bi:ɖo: ‘button’ ba:nɖ ‘utensils’

/ɖʰ/ (voiced aspirated retroflex stop)

ɖʰukʰ ‘hunger’ unɖʰon ‘slope’

/d/ (voiced unaspirated dental stop)

diha:ɖi: ‘sun’ gardo: ‘dust’ dud ‘milk’

/dʰ/ (voiced aspirated dental stop)

dʰup ‘sunshine’ sidʰo: ‘straight’

/k/ (voiceless unaspirated velar stop)

kukɖi: ‘maize’ gaɖkanu ‘thunder’ tʰuk ‘saliva’

/kʰ/ (voiceless aspirated velar stop)

kʰiɖe:no: ‘toy’ tarkʰa:n ‘carpenter’ me:kʰ ‘nail’

/r/ (voiced alveolar trill)

ra:zo: ‘king’ bikʰa:ri: ‘beggar’ tutar ‘face’

Fricatives

/s/ (voiceless alveolar fricative)

sanɖa: ‘buffalo (m)’ kansa:r ‘centipede’ taras ‘mercy’

/h/ (voiceless glottal fricative)

hasnu: ‘to laugh’ diha:ɖi: ‘day’ o:h ‘showing grief’

/f/ (voiceless labio dental fricative)

fa:rkʰati: ‘divorce’ afso:s ‘sorrow’ ta:ri:f ‘praise’

/z/ (Voiced alveolar fricative)

zitnu: ‘to win’ saza:nu: ‘to decorate’ pare:z ‘day before yesterday’

/ʃ/ (Voiceless alveo palatal fricative)

ʃuknu: ‘to shrink’ biʃnu: ‘to sit’ nuʃ ‘daughter-in-law’

Affricates

/ts/ (Voiceless unaspirated alveolar affricate)

tso:r ‘thief’ natsnu: ‘dance’ tsunts ‘beak’

/tsʰ/ (Voiceless aspirated alveolar affricate)

tsʰaɖnu: ‘to pour’ putsʰnu: ‘to ask’ itsʰ ‘bear’

/dʒ/ (Voiced unaspirated post alveolar affricate)

dʒuʈiɖe: ‘twin’ bu:dʒi: ‘father's sister’ ha:dʒ ‘mother’

/ʧ/ (voiceless unaspirated palato-alveolarstop)

ʧamɖi: ‘skin’ ʧamʧo: ‘spoon’

/ʧʰ/ (voiceless aspirated palato-alveolar affricate)

ʧʰilar ‘chisel’ atʃʰu: ‘fine’ muntʃʰ ‘moustache’

Nasals

/m/ (voiced bilabial nasal)

maʈʰu: ‘boy’ ambar ‘weather’ dam ‘asthma’

/n/ (voiced dental nasal)

ni:lo: ‘blue’ ʧandan ‘sandalwood’ makʰan ‘butter’

/ŋ/ (voiced velar nasal)

pʰaŋo: ‘feather’ zaŋ ‘light’

/ɳ/ (voiced retroflex nasal)

paːɳiː 'water'

Approximants

/l/ (voiced alveolar lateral approximant)
leːra: 'wave' talaː 'pond' dʒaŋal 'forest'

/v/ (voiced labiodental approximant)
vaːdiː 'valley' dʒovziː 'brother's wife' adɭaːv 'bachelor'

/j/ (voiced palatal approximant)
jaːre: 'eleven' dʒamaːjiː 'son-in-law' kuj 'daughter'

4.7 Palatalization

The process of palatalization modifies a phoneme by making it sound as though it were pronounced with the palatal consonant /j/. Although there are palatalized sounds found in Bhaderwahi but this feature is not used to that extent as is found in Kashmiri. Following examples show palatalization in Bhaderwahi:

Bhaderwahi	Gloss
bunʲoː oːʈʰ	lower lip
sunʲaːr	goldsmith
hʲeːɖoː	pale

4.8 Consonant Clusters

In Bhaderwahi the consonant clusters occur at word initial and final position. Some examples of the consonant clusters are given below.

Initial cluster of two consonant (CC—)

/ɖl/	/ ɖlaː/	'marriage'
/ɖr/	/ ɖraːmoː/	'drama'
/ʈr/	/ ʈravzar/	'trouser'
/gr/	/ gravunɖ/	'ground'

Final cluster of two consonant (—CC)

/nts/	/ tsunts/	'beak'
/nt/	/ daːnt/	'bull'
/nd/	/ pand/	'mat'
/ntʰ/	/ kantʰ/	'wall'
/mb/	/tʰuːmb/	'garlic'
/nɖ/	/ ʈʰanɖ/	'cold'

Gemination:

/-ll-/	/ pulloː/	'light (by weight)'
/-ss-/	/ lassiː/	'buttermilk'
/-nn-/	/ gannaː/	'sugarcane'
/ -ʈʈ-/	/aʈʈaː/	'flour'
/-dd-/	/ baddoː/	'ugly'
/-jj-/	/tsajjõː/	'apple'

4.9 Syllabic Structure and Pattern

A syllable is a fundamental but elusive unit in phonology. A syllable typically consists of one vowel or diphthongs possibly preceded or followed by one or more consonant. Syllables have

internal structure: they can be divided into parts. The parts are onset and rhyme; within the rhyme, we find the nucleus and coda. A syllable may or may not have an onset and a coda.
Syllabification is the separation of a word into syllables, whether spoken or written. In Bhaderwahi, syllabification portrays the following pattern.

I. monosyllabic,
II. disyllabic, and
III. polysyllabic words

I Monosyllabic Pattern

VC	/ iːl /	'vulture'
	/ atsʰ/	'eye'
VCC	/amb/	'mango'
CV	/ koː/	'son'
	/ tsʰaː/	'buttermilk'
CVC	/ kuɖ /	'cave'
	/ haɖ /	'flood'
CCV	**/** ɖlaː/	'marriage'
CVCC	/ tsunts /	'beak'
	/ pand /	'mat'

II Disyllabic Pattern

V-CV	/ a-gɨ /	'fire'
CV-CV	/ leː-raː /	'wave'
VC-CV	/ uŋ-liː/	'finger'
V-CVC	/ a-gaːs /	'sky'
VC-CVC	/ un-ɖʰon /	'slope'
CVC-CV	/ gar-doː/	'dust '
CV-CVC	/ ʈaː-laːn/	'ice '
CVC-CVC	/ bad-laːr/	'cloud'

III Polysyllabic Pattern

CV-CV-CV	/ ha-tʰeː-liː/	'fist'
CVC-CV-CV	/ lap-ku-nu /	'lightning'
VC-CV-CVC	/ in-ti-zaːm /	'security'
CVC-CVC-CV	/ ham-dar-diː/	'affection'
CV-CVC-CV	/ ku-vaːn-ʃiː/	'female'
CV-CV-CV-CV	/ ma-leː-ri-jaː/	'malaria'

4.10 Conclusion

The present paper reveals the presence of seven phonemic vowels in Bhaderwahi. Each vowel has a long counterpart except for ɨ and ə. All short and long vowels occur in nasalized form except for i, e and ɨ vowel. Vowel length is phonemic in Bhaderwahi. There are thirty four consonants in Bhaderwahi. In Bhaderwahi hardly some examples of palatalization are found. In Bhaderwahi, double consonant clusters i.e. CC are found in word- initial and final position. Syllable types found in Bhaderwahi are CV, CVC, CCV, CVCC, VC, VCC etc.

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