Noun Morphology of Kohistani

Nazir Ahmad Dhar [*]
Zargar Adil Ahmad [**]

Abstract

Kohistani is a Dardic language spoken in the upper parts of the Swat and Panjkora valleys (Swat Kohistan and Dir Kohistan), in Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province. Kohistani of Swat Kohistan has been already described by Grierson (1919) and Hallberg (1992) to a large extent but the Kohistani spoken in the valley of Kashmir is yet to be taken into consideration. The Kohistani is spoken in the valley in different areas of Kangan like Waniyarm Wangath, Mirpati Mamar and Ganivan of district Ganderbal (Jammu & Kashmir). The present paper is an attempt to discuss noun morphology of Kohistani spoken in Kangan Tehsil of Jammu and Kashmir.

Key Words: Noun, Number, Gender, Case.

1. Introduction

Kohistani is classified as one of the Dardic language (Grierson 1919) spoken in northern Pakistan's Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Kashmir and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, northern areas of Jammu and Kashmir state, and eastern Afghanistan. Kohistani is spoken by the people living in the upper parts of the Swat and Panjkora valleys (Swat Kohistan and Dir Kohistan), in Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province and in some parts of Jammu and Kashmir State. The Kohistani spoken in Kashmir Valley has about 6000 speakers settled down in different areas of Kashmir Valley that include Jugtiyal Hyhama, Kundnar, Kanibahak and Balhama of district Kupwara. Kohistani is also spoken in different areas of Kangan like Waniyarm Wangath, Mirpati Mamar and Ganivan of district Ganderbal. This region was once used to be the gateway to Central Asia during ancient period. This district is a newly formed district of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, which came into existence in 2007 by separating it from erstwhile Srinagar district. It was formerly two tehsils (Ganderbal and Kangan) of Srinagar District. The district is flanked by district Baramulla in the west, district Srinagar in the south, newly created district Bandipora in the northwest, Arohoma forest in the north and district Kargil in the east. The Sind river, a major tributary to the Jehlum river flows though this area. Famous health resorts, Sonmarg, Naranag, and Manasbal Lake add beauty to it. There are three hydroelectric power stations, Lower Sindh Hydroelectric power project Ganderbal, Upper Sind hydroelectric power project 1st Kangan and upper Sindh Hydroelectric power project 2nd Sumbal generating electricity on the Sind river. The district is constituted into four blocks: Ganderbal, Wakoora, Lar and Kangan. Kangan is a city in Kangan tehsil in Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir State. It is located 16 km towards east from the district headquarters Ganderbal. It is surrounded by Ganderbal tehsil towards west, Sumbal tehsil towards east, Gurez Tehsil towards North, Lar Tehsil towards west.

[*] Department of Linguistics, University of Kashmir

[*] Department of Linguistics, University of Kashmir

The morphology of Indus Kohistani has been described by Grierson (1919) and Hallberg (1992). More recently, a sociolinguistic survey of Kalam and surrounding areas has been carried out by Rench and co-workers (Stahl 1998. Rensch 1992). The sound system and tonal system of Kalam Kohistani have been described in   Baart (1997). An account of tone change processes in Kalam Kohistani was given in Baart (1999). A sketch of Kalam Kohistani Grammar is a tentative overview of Kalami morphology and syntax in Baart (2011). The Perso-Arabic script has been used for writing system of Kalam Kohistani.

2. Methodology:
The present paper is based on the data collected from the native speakers of Kohistani speakers from various villages of Kangan. The questionnaire used for the data collection consists of words and sentences. The data collected from the field has been simultaneously transcribed and analyzed with the objective to carry out morphological study of the language limited to some aspects of noun morphology.

3. Noun Morphology:
Nouns are characterised in terms of their morphological properties. Noun can be inflected (i.e. change their form) for the plurals, involving either the addition of a syllable to the end of the word or the modification of a word. Nouns are also inflected for gender and case. The description of Kohistani Noun morphology is as follows:

3.1 Number
Kohistani has two-tier number system i.e. singular and plural. Most countable nouns form their plurals from singular forms. Generally plurals are formed from singular by suffixation.
1. A central low short vowel [a] is added to the CVC base structure as a plural marker e.g.

Singular	Plural	Gloss
tsʰim	tsʰima	fish
siŋ	siŋa	horn
mu:ʂ	mu:ʂa	mouse
raz	raza	rope
ɡo:n	ɡo:na	cowshed

2.The second high front long unrounded vowel [i] of the CVCCV/CVCV structure noun changes to a high front short un rounded vowel [i] and suffix [ja:] is added as plural marker e.g.

Singular	Plural	Gloss
kunʒi:	kunʒija:	key
kursi:	kursija:	chair
ladi:	ladija:	house
bati:	batija:	lamp
poɖi:	poɖija:	staircase
patʃʰi:	patʃʰija	wing
ɡuɖi:	ɡuɖija:	doll

3. The final consonant of a noun is palatalized and suffix [a] is added as plural marker.

Singular	Plural	Gloss
tsʰajl	tsʰajlʲa	goat (f)
lavã̰ʈ	lavã̰ʈʲa	tail

4. The low central short vowel [a] of the CVC structure changes to low central long vowel [a:] and low central short vowel [a] is added as plural marker.

Singular	Plural	Gloss
na:kʰ	nakʰa	nail

za:n	zana	snake

5. The second high back rounded long vowel [u] of the CVCV structure is deleted and suffix [wa] is added to indicate plural.

Singular	**Plural**	**Gloss**
pʰuʈu:	pʰuʈwa	picture
kuʈʰu:	kuʈʰwa	room

6. The second short vowel of the CVCV structure changes into long vowel which indicates pluralization.

Singular	**Plural**	**Gloss**
ʒula	ʒula:	spider
darã	darã:	door
ɖiŋo	ɖiŋo:	cucumber

7. The second high back rounded long vowel [u:] of the CVCV structure changes to a mid back rounded long vowel [o:] to indicate pluralization.

Singular	**Plural**	**Gloss**
ʃa:du:	ʃa:do:	monkey
tambu:	tambo:	tent
tsʰaʈu:	tsʰaʈo:	axe
piʃu:	piʃo:	cat

8. The second high front unrounded long vowel [i:] of the CVCV structure changes to mid front un rounded long nasalized vowel [ẽ:] to indicate pluralization.

Singular	**Plural**	**Gloss**
baŋi:	baŋẽ:	cock
kuki:	kukẽ:	hen

9. The plural marker high front short vowel [i] is added to the noun of CVC structure.

Singular	**Plural**	**Gloss**
ʃũʈ	ʃũʈi	bitch
kʰar	kʰari	ass
baʈ	baʈi	rock

10.The plural marker mid front unrounded short vowel [e] is added to the noun of CVC structure.

Singular	**Plural**	**Gloss**
ba:b	ba:be	apple
ɡaj	ɡaje	tree

3.2 Gender

Nouns in Kohistani language are divided into two classes: masculine and feminine. The gender formation processes involve suffixation and change in vowel and consonants. Some rules of Gender formation are discussed below:

1.Some feminine nouns present examples of suppletion, as follows:

Kohistani (m)	**Gloss**	**Kohistani (f)**	**Gloss**
za̤:	brother	bʲã:	sister
pu:tʃ	son	di:	daughter
za̤li:ʒ	nephew	sari:	niece
kʰava:n	husband	gerʲu:	wife
sõ:nɖ	buffalo	me:ʃ	buffalo
ɡo:	bull	ɡaw	cow
narɡoʈ	cat	piʃu:	cat
ba:ŋi:	cock	kuki:	hen

e:g	sheep	i:	sheep
moŋar	he goat	tshajl	she goat
ma:ʃ	man	tʃaj	woman
pitʃi:	ant	ma:ʃo:	ant
ṭaṭu	horse	aʃpi	mare

2.The mid front unrounded short nasalized vowel [e] is added to the noun of CVC structure for gender formation e.g

Kohistani (m)	Gloss	Kohistani (f)	Gloss
kʰar	ass (m)	kʰarẽ	ass (f)
mu:ʐ	rat (m)	mu:ʐẽ	rat (f)

3. The nouns ending in long vowels takes high front long vowel /i:/ for gender formation e.g

Kohistani (m)	Gloss	Kohistani (f)	Gloss
maṭu:	boy	maṭi:	girl
bo:ṭa:	bridegroom	bo:ṭi:	bride

4.The nouns have specific suffixes to indicate their masculine gender.

Kohistani (m)	Gloss	Kohistani (f)	Gloss
pitʃi:	ant	pitʃi: tʃe:	ant
itʃ	bear	itʃe:ŋ	bear

The above examples show those suffixes / tʃe:/and / e:ŋ/ are used for masculine gender in nouns.

3.3 Case
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.

3.3.1Nominative
Nominative in Kohistani is unmarked i.e. it does not take any case marker or post position. The simple unmodified form of the noun is used in this case. It occupies subject or direct object position in a clause.

Examples
su asil maṭu: tʰu:
he-m-sg-nom good boy be-pr
He is a good boy

tʃajã: pʰar hã:
bird-Pl-nom fly be-pr
Birds fly

su pa:rʒo: tʃokin
she-f-sg-nom there stand-pr
She stands there

mulo: na:rɨ ɡʲev
child-m-sg-nom down fall-pr
The child falls down

3.3.2 Ergative

In ergative case nouns take case markers which occur with the subject of a sentence where the verb is transitive and in past tense, otherwise the subject remains unmarked. In Kohistani it is unmarked.

Examples

mahe:ʃ a:m kʰʲo:
Mahesh-m-sg-erg mango eat-pst
Mahesh ate mango.

balo: tʃʰu: pe:g
children-m-pl-erg fish catch-pst
The children caught the fish

mo kita:b razʲa:s
i-m-sg-erg book read-pst
I read the book.

bali ko:m tʰe:gɨ
boy-pl-m-erg work do-pst
The boys did work.

3.3.3 Dative

The dative case is generally used to indicate the noun, to which something is given, thus it is the case of indirect object of the verb. Dative case markers are ṭa/ ṭ/ḍ

Examples

bɨ maj go:ʃṭa
go-pr my house-dat
Go to my house

ba:zraṭ eh
bazaar-dat come-pr
Come to bazaar

rahi:m ʃa:meṭ tom kita:b dav
rahi:m sham-dat the book give-pst
Ram gave the book to Shyam.

me: putʃ madrasa:ṭ gev
my son-m-sg-school-dat give pst per
My son has gone to the school

ma:luḍ potʃi da
father-sg-m-dat. clothes give-imp
Give clothes to father.

3.3.4 Ablative

In ablative case the characteristic is that they mark motion away from something. These case markers are added after inflected forms of the subject. The case markers are uʒ/aʒ/iʒ.

Examples
muṭʰuʒ paṭʰ watʰ
tree-abl-from-leaves fall-pr
The leaves fall from the tree

mulo: ʃalfuʒ kita:b walav
boy-m-sg- shelf-abl from book take-pst
The boy took the book from the shelf

muhan ne ba:zraʒ ṭe:bil aṭav
mohan from market-abl table bring-pst
Mohan bought the table from the market

ʃiʃiʒ kʰoj na:ri ɡe:
head-abl from cap fall-pst
Cap fell from head.

3.3.5 Locative

Locative is a grammatical case which indicates a location. The locative case markers in Kohistani are aʒ/a:/da/i/u.

Examples
kita:b ṭe:blaʒ aʒa o:na
book table-loc on-pp be-pr
The book is on the table

me: bali: madrasa: da:n
my children school-loc in-pp
My children are in the school

sito: pẽ:so: parisda maʒi tʃʰure:ɡ
sita money purse-loc inside-pp keep-pst
Sita kept the money inside the purse

me:zi kʰari ka:pi:n
table-loc under-pp copy be-pr
Copy is under the table

kuṭʰu: da me:zun
room-loc inside-pp table be pr
Table is inside the room.

3.3.6 Genitive

Genitive case shows possession. It often marks a noun as being the possessor of another. The case markers are aj/uj/e:

Examples
a: asaj laḍi:
these my-gen house pl be-pr
These are my houses.

sesaj asu:l
his-gen principles
his principles.

ma:luj kita;b
father-gen of book
book of the father.

male: hatʰ
girl-gen of hands
Hands of girl.

3.3.7 Instrumental
Instrumental case marker ɡe/ɡi when occurs with noun is used as instrument by the agent to perform the action denoted by the verb.

Examples
me: pen ɡe likʰja: ɡe:
my-sg-inst pen with write-pr
Write with my pen

ʒe:l hagar ɡi taba:bil
forest fire-inst by destroy-pst
The forest is destroyed by fire

rafi:ki tʃʰaṭal ɡi tobi dojev
rafiq-sg-m-inst axe with tree cut-pr
Rafiq cut the tree with axe.

balo:ʒ põ:ɡi panḍo:s nuṭi:la
boy-pl-m-inst foot with ball play-pst.
Boys played the ball with foot.

Conclusion
The present paper reveals the number, gender and case formation in Kohistani. Generally plurals are formed from singular by suffixation, lengthening of vowels and change in vowels. In Kohistani, the gender formation involve suffixation and change in vowel and many examples of suppletion for gender formation. Sometimes certain phonological changes also occur while forming the feminine form. In Kohistani nominative and ergative cases are unmarked and do not take any case marker, while dative, ablative, locative, genitive and instrumental cases are marked in Kohistani.

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