

Budhali: A Descriptive Note

M.K.Koul^{*}

Abstract

Budhali is a link language in Budhal (Rajouri, J&K). There are three ethno-linguistic communities that live in Budhal viz. Kashmiri, Pahari and Gojri. There are native speakers of all the three languages. Budhali, as per the people who speak it, is the language of the descendants of Raja Budh Pal primarily, but at present it is used by all the communities as a link language. It has no literature and also lacks a script. The Census of India groups Budhali speakers under Pahari language. However, Pahari and Budhali, though resembling with one another, are linguistically different speech varieties. The contemporary status of the language is that it is mother tongue to a significant number of people living in Budhal, Dandoot, Keval, Phalni, Triganyi etc. of the Rajouri district. The present paper is a descriptive note on Budhali, so far an unreported language.

Keywords: Budhali, Number, Gender, Case, Kashmiri, Language, Descriptive, Speech Community.

Introduction

Budhali is a link language in Budhal (Rajouri, J&K). The Census of India groups the Budhali speakers under Pahari language. However, Pahari and Budhali, though resembling with one another, are linguistically different speech varieties. The contemporary status of the language is that it is mother tongue to a significant number of people living in Budhal, Dandoot, Keval, Phalni, Triganyi, etc. of the Rajouri district. There are three ethno-linguistic communities that live in Budhal viz. Kashmiri, Pahari and Gojri. There are native speakers of all the three languages.

* Principal, Urdu Teaching and Research Centre.Lucknow. India.

Budhali is the language of the descendants of Raja Budh Pal primarily, but at present it is used by all the communities as a link language. According to the oral history¹, Raja Rood Pal of Jammu had four sons and among these one namely Raja Budh Pal came to this place now known after his name Budhal and settled here. The language he speaks was known as Budhali and was influenced by the neighbouring languages spoken in the area. It is believed that the descendants of the Budh Pal speak Budhali as mother tongue. The present situation is that every person who comes out of his home, no matter which speech community he belongs to, speaks only Budhali outside his home domain. It has no literature and also lacks script.

The survey of the language also revealed that, in a local school, the following breakup of the students was found on the basis of the language spoken by them.

Kashmiri	>	86	
Pahari	>	130	(Budhali speakers included)
Gojri	>	44	
Total	=	260	

In Budhal, 40% population are Kashmiri speakers whose mother tongue is Kashmiri. However, they also speak languages other than Kashmiri. The resemblance of Budhali with Bhaderwahi was stressed by the language consultant during the fieldwork in May, 2012 for the project “Survey of Kashmiri Dialects”.

Methodology

The data has been collected from the Budhal area of the Rajouri district where Budhali speakers are concentrated. The data was collected by recording the Budhali speech using sophisticated voice recorders. The data was analysed and described.

Noun Class

¹ The oral history was narrated by Mohammad Hussain Thakar, Headmaster, Govt. High School Budhal in an interview during the fieldwork in May, 2012.

With respect to the meanings which they convey, nouns denote what we call ‘amities’. Nouns will thus be regarded as a form, indeed the main but not the only form of nominal word. They may be ‘concrete’ or ‘abstract’. Nouns are usually associated with the ability to inflect (i.e. change their form) for the plural, involving either the addition of a syllable to the end of the word or the modification of a word root. Likewise nouns are inflected for gender and case.

Number

Every language has got certain paradigm by which one can study the morphological phenomenon. Having seen the data of the Budhali language, it can be said that there are two numbers: singular and plural. Most countable nouns form their plurals from singular form. Some countable nouns have the same form for both numbers (singular & plural). In Budhali, plurals are formed from singulars by changing its vowel e.g. The final low central unrounded long vowel [a:] changes to mid front unrounded long vowel [e:] e.g.

Singular	Plural	Gloss
baɟ ^h a:	baɟ ^h e:	calf (m)
bila:	bile:	cat (m)
kuta:	kute:	dog (m)
gora:	gore:	horse (m)
kojila:	kojile:	coal

The final high front unrounded long vowel [i:] is shortened and voiced palatal frictionless continuant [j] followed by low central long nasalized vowel [ã:] is added e.g.

Singular	Plural	Gloss
kukɾi:	kukɾijã:	hen
əɖi:	əɖijã:	bone
sabzi:	sabzijã:	vegetable
p ^h ali:	p ^h alijã:	bean
bili:	bilijã:	cat (f)
baɟ ^h i:	baɟ ^h ijã:	calf (f)

Gender

Budhali nouns show two tier gender systems i.e. masculine and feminine. Gender formation processes from masculine to feminine or vice versa are irregular. The gender formation processes involve change in vowels and consonants. Most of the phonological and morphological changes are irregular e.g.

The low central long vowel [a:] changes to high front unrounded long vowel [i:] or the high front unrounded long vowel [i:] is added after the final consonant to noun; indicate the feminine formation e.g.

Masculine	Feminine	Gloss
bitrija:	bitriji:	Nephew/ Niece
baɟ ^h a:	baɟ ^h i:	calf
bila:	bili:	cat
goɾa:	goɾi:	horse/mare
kuta:	kuti:	dog/bitch
kukur	kukɾi:	cock/hen
dada:	dadi:	Grandfather/ Grandmother

Some feminine forms are formed by suppletion e.g.

Masculine	Feminine	Gloss
dã:d	gav	Ox/ Cow
bab	ma:	Father/ Mother
bra:	bi:n	Brother/sister
grã:la	zana:ni:	Husband/Wife

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. Cases of Budhali speech are provided below:

Nominative

/ã: usta:d dis/

i-nom teacher be-pr.sg
I am a teacher.

/as grā: wa:le: dū:/
we-nom village-gen be-pr.pl
We are villagers.

/ta: paRa: kardi/
she-nom read do-imperf
She is reading.

Agentive

/mi: tis dik^hya:/
i-ag he-acc see-past
I saw him.

/tista: mi: dik^hya:/
he-ag i-acc see-past
He saw me.

/tusi asi dik^hya:/
You-ag we-acc see-past
You saw us.

Genitive

/maRa: gar baḍa: diya:/
i-gen house big be-pr
My house is big.

/tista gar baḍa: diya:/
He-gen house big be-pr
His house is big.

/saRa: gar baḍa: diya:/
We-gen house big be-pr

Our house is big.

Pronouns

Pronouns in Budhali are inflected for gender, number and case. The following table shows the paradigm of the Budhali pronouns:

		Nominative	Agentive	Dative	Genitive
1st Person	Singular	ã:	mi:	-	ma:Ra
	Plural	as	asi	asi:	sa:Ra
2nd Person	Singular	tus	tusi	tusi	-
	Plural	-	tuse	-	ts ^h o:Ra
3rd Person	Singular	ta:	tis	tis	tista: ista:
	Plural	tini:	tini: te:	tini:	tini:da

Comparison of Budhali and Kashmiri

Below are some examples of Budhali words which are almost similar to Kashmiri words:

Budhali	Kashmiri	Gloss
ta:p ^h	tap ^h	fever
dud	dɔd	milk
ča:	ča:y	tea
dand	da:nd	bull
ga:v	ga:v	cow
kukaR	kɔkur	cock
ambi	ambi	mango
k ^h and	k ^h and	sugar
da:dʒ	da:dʒ	dowry
dand	dand	teeth
kan	kan	ear

gardan	gardan	neck
k ^h u:n	k ^h u:n/rat ^h	blood
č ^h a:n	č ^h a:n	carpenter

In some examples there is a phonological rule where the [v] of Kashmiri at the initial position corresponds to [b] of Budhali. The rule can be written as Kashmiri [v] > Budhali [b] e.g.

Kashmiri	Budhali	Gloss
van	ban	forest
vā:dur	bā:dur	monkey

Below are Budhali lexemes compared with Kashmiri:

Budhali	Kashmiri	Gloss
gač ^h a:	gats ^h	go
əɖi:	əɖidʒ	bone
əɖijā:	əɖidʒi	bones
nak ^h	nas	nose
ɖʒi:p ^h	zev	tongue
da:Ri:	də:r	beard
kan	kan	ear
č ^h a:ni:	/c ^h o:n	sieve
bu:ɖ	bu:ɖ ^h	shoe
pag	dasta:r	turban
səndu:k	səndu:k	box
gurha:l	ga:n	cowshed
bičkilā:	bumisin ^j	earthworm
anɖa:	ɖ ^h u:l	egg
ha:t ^h i:	hos	elephant
mač ^h i:	ga:ɖ	fish
par	par	wings
mak ^h i:	məč ^h	fly
mač ^h ar	mōh	mosquito
ɖaɖ	mini ^j	frog
p ^h avɖi:	ša:l	fox
siŋ	heŋ	horn

go:Ra:	gur	horse
go:Re:	gur ⁱ	horses
ḍzuvā:	zov	louse
ču:ha:	gagur	rat
harən	ru:skət	deer
alḍa:	o:l	nest
ulu:	ra:timangul	owl
to:ta:	to:t ⁱ	parrot
be:ḍə	kaṭ ^h	sheep
aḍu:	gəb	ewe
le:la:	č ^h ir	lamb

Numerals in Budhali

Budhali	Gloss
ik	one
do:	two
tra:y	three
ča:r	four
pandzə	five
č ^h e:	six
satə	seven
aṭ ^h ə	eight
nov	nine
das	ten
gya:ra:	eleven
ba:ra:	twelve
te:ra:	thirteen
čo:da:	fourteen
pandrã:	fifteen
so:lã:	sixteen
sata:rã:	seventeen
aṭ ^h a:rã:	eighteen
uni:	nineteen
bi:	twenty
tri:	thirty

ča:li:	forty
pundʒa:	fifty
saṭ ^h	sixty
saṭ ^h ar	seventy
asi:	eighty
nabe:	ninety
so:	hundred
haza:r	one thousand

Ordinals

Budhali	Gloss
pehla:	first
dū:yā:	second
tri:yā:	third
čo:t ^h a:	four
pandʒvā:	fifth
č ^h e:vā:	sixth
satvā:	seventh
aṭ ^h vā:	eighth
navā:	ninth
dasvā:	tenth
bi:vā:	twentieth

Names of Days

Budhali	Gloss
ta:r	Sunday
suma:r	Monday
maṅla:r	Tuesday
bud ^h a:r	Wednesday
be:rva:r	Thursday
ḍuma:	Friday
ba:r	Saturday

Conclusion

The present work is an attempt to give a brief description of Budhali. It is well understood that Budhali is a link language between the different

speech communities living in Budhal. In Budhali, we see that it has two tier number and gender system. Budhali has nominative, genitive, agentive, dative cases. There share some lexical similarities with Kashmiri as well.

References

Carstairs-McCarthy, A. 2001. Paradigmatic Structure: Inflectional Paradigms and Morphological Classes in Spencer, A and Zwicky, A.M. (eds.) *The Handbook of Morphology*,. Balckwell Reference Online.

Grierson, G.A. 1919. *The Linguistic Survey of India*. Vol.VIII Part-II. Reprinted 1968. Delhi: MotiLal Banarasidas.

Sachdeva, R., et al. 2011. *A Linguistic Survey of Kashmiri Dialects, Part I*. Mysore: Central Institute of Indian Languages.

Online Sources

<http://www.censusofindia.gov.in>

<http://www.jammukashmir.nic.in>

