

Noun Morphology of Kashmiri-Pahari

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Abstract

The present paper takes up the study of Kashmir-Pahari speech variety and aims to describe the basic noun morphology. Kashmir-Pahari is a variety of Western Pahari spoken in Reasi, Narwal, Karnah, etc. districts of Jammu and Kashmir. The paper aims to study the noun inflections i.e. Number, Gender, and Case in depth.

Keywords

Kashmiri-Pahari, Morphology, Noun Inflections, Number, Gender, Case, Postpositions.

Introduction

The Pahari languages (*pahar* 'mountain') are a geographic group of Indo-Aryan languages spoken in the lower ranges of the Himalayas, from Nepal in the east, through the Indian states of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, to Azad Kashmir and Murree in Pakistan. The term Pahari in Urdu means "mountain dwellers". The history of Pahari language in the state of J&K can be related to the time when J&K was a Hindu state. During that period Buddhism started to spread its roots in J&K and the preachers of Buddhism chose Pahari as their language for communication. This period was a marker for development and spread of Pahari in state of J&K as various scripts were developed for Pahari language. The main script for writing Pahari in that period was Sharda script. The script was replaced with Persio-Arabic after the Muslim invasion in state. With time Pahari language lost its roots and the state and was left on the mercy of the native speakers. The only medium through which Pahari was forwarded was from parents to their children verbally. The recognition of Pahari community started with the intervention by Adv. Noorulah Qureshi, who started a revolution known as *Pahari Tehreek* in 1970. Nowadays Pahari is a well-recognised language and is proposed in the primary syllabus for the schools

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as an optional language. There is a Pahari Advisory Board formed in 1993 which is helping to uplift Pahari in all the domains.

Pahari is spoken in various areas of J&K viz. Reasi, Narwal, Kupwara, Salkoot (Baramulla). The variant spoken in the area Reasi of Udhampur district belongs to Western Pahari group and forms mother tongue of most of the people in the area, though the accurate numbers are not provided in census report. Pahari spoken in Reasi is capable of attracting attention of any linguist because of the contact it has developed with other languages over time. The language is influenced with Kashmiri speakers on one side and Dogri speakers on the other which has affected it in many ways. Having borrowed a lot of words from Kashmiri language, Pahari retains its accent in all the constructions, which makes the Kashmiri spoken by them totally different than the one spoken in adjacent areas.

Methodology

The data for the research paper is collected from Reasi area of Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir. The topic of our study is noun inflections (i.e Number, Gender and Case) in Kashmir-Pahari. A questionnaire was prepared containing sentences and words and the data was recorded from the native speakers of Kashmir-Pahari by using hi-tech voice recorders. The data was then transcribed and carefully analysed.

Noun Inflections

Noun morphology deals with the form of noun and their declensional patterns in association with Number, Gender and Case etc. In Kashmir-Pahari we can see this pattern under the following headings;

Number

Number which refers to a grammatical category is marked morphologically in noun or noun phrases. Number can be either singular or plural and can be represented as a binary valued feature [\pm pl]. Singular or [-pl] is the default value for number which is morphologically unexpressed while the non-default value [+pl] may be phonologically realized. Kashmir-Pahari has a two-tier number system that is singular and plural. Generally countable nouns form their plurals from singular forms. In Kashmir-Pahari, many countable nouns have the same form for both the numbers (singular and plural). Most of the plurals in the language are formed with general rule i.e. from singular by suffixation with few exceptions like vowel modification and prefixation. Number in Kashmir-Pahari is realized differently for different nouns. The detail of the realization can be seen under following headings.

Vowel Modification

Number marking in Kashmir-Pahari may be realized through *Vowel Modification*. It realized in Kashmir-Pahari as follows;

Singular	Plural
/ga:v/ 'cow'	/gə:v/ 'cows'
/kru:l/ 'well'	/kri:l/ 'wells'
/latsul/ 'broom'	/latsil/ 'brooms'
/guɾ/ 'horse'	/guiɾ/ 'horses'

Suffixation

Number marking in Kashmir-Pahari may be realized through *Suffixation*. It realized in Kashmir-Pahari as follows;

Singular	Plural
/kita:b/ 'book'	/kita:bi/ 'books'
/ga:d/ 'fish'	/ga:di/ 'fishes'
/ko:r/ 'guest'	/kəɾi/ 'guests'
/əcʰ/ 'eye'	/acʰi/ 'eyes'
/tu:kir/ 'basket'	/tu:kri/ 'baskets'
/tsəɖ/ 'birds'	/tsəɖi/ 'birds'

In Kashmir-Pahari /i/ /i/ are used as plural markers.

Zero Modification

Number marking in Kashmir-Pahari may be realized through *Zero Modification*. It is realized in Kashmir-Pahari as follows;

Singular	Plural
/bacci/ 'child'	/bacci/ 'children'
/atʰi/ 'hand'	/atʰi/ 'hands'
/gari/ 'house'	/gari/ 'houses'

/ləɽki/ 'boy'	/laɽki/ 'boys'
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In such cases where the noun does not change its form, plurals are formed by prefixation.

Example;

Singular	Plural
/ləkuɽ bacci/ 'small child'	/ləkiɽbacci/ 'small children'
/m ^o :nat ^{hi} / 'my hand'	/m ^e :nat ^{hi} / 'my hands'

In the above examples /ləkuɽ/ /ləkiɽ/, /m^o:n/ /m^e:n/ are used as prefixes for pluralisation.

Gender

Gender which refers to a grammatical category is a language specific characteristic. Gender which is either masculine or feminine is not always morphologically marked in Kashmir-Pahari. In most of the cases gender is marked lexically.

i) The gender properties marked through suppletion.

Examples;

Masculine	Feminine
/maɽid/ 'male'	/zina:n/ 'female'
/mahra:z/ 'bridegroom'	/mahrin/ 'bride'
/ləɽki/ 'boy'	/kuɽ/ 'girl'
/mo:l/ 'father'	/mə:dʒ/ 'mother'
/dā:d/ 'bull'	/ga:v/ 'cow'

ii) Gender marking done through suffixation.

Examples;

Masculine	Feminine
/mas/ 'mother's sister'	/masu:/ 'mother's sister's husband'
/ma:m/ 'mother's brother'	

	/mami:/ 'mother's brother's wife'
/zam/ 'husband's sister'	/za:mij/ 'husband's sister's husband'

iii) Gender marking done through vowel modification.

Examples;

Masculine	Feminine
/bo:j/ 'brother'	/bīj/ 'sister'
/da:di/ 'father's father'	/da:di:/ 'father's mother'
/na:ni/ 'mother's father'	/na:ni:/ 'mother's mother'
/po:tri/ 'grand son'	/potri:/ 'granddaughter'

iv) Gender marking done through prefixation.

Masculine	Feminine
/məhn'u:/ 'man'	/kəɖi məhn'u:/ 'woman'

Kashmir-Pahari has very rare cases of forming plurals with prefixes.

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. Like other languages, in Kashmir-Pahari also, semantic relation between a noun phrase(s) or subject and a predicate is expressed by the grammatical category of case. Case in Kashmir-Pahari can be as;

- Nominative
- Accusative
- Dative
- Instrumental
- Ablative
- Genitive
- Locative

Nominative Case

The nominative case generally marks the subject of a verb or the predicate noun or predicate adjective which is either a noun or a pronoun. In Kashmir-Pahari, the marker for nominative is null (/Ø/).

Examples;

/su	ch ^u		ba:zar	gasan/
He-3Sg-Nom	Aux		market	v-go
'He goes to the market.'				
/so	ch ⁱ		ho:t	vadiji/
She -3sg-Nom	Aux		there	v-stand
'She stands there'				
/sarka:r	ch ⁱ		gari:ban	pō:s divan/
'Government-3Sg-Nom	Aux	poor	money	v-give-3Sg
'The Government gives money to poor.'				

As it is evident from above examples, /su/ 'He' /so/ 'she' /sarka:r/ 'government' are the subject in nominative case with no case marker attached. Thus we see here the nominative case marker is null or absent.

Accusative Case

Accusative case is the case in nominative-accusative languages that marks certain syntactic functions, usually direct objects. In Kashmir-Pahari, the marker for Accusative is null or /-ən/.

Examples;

/jikə:r		rəʃ	hiran/
hunter-3Sg-Nom		v-catch	deer-3Sg-Acc
'The hunter caught the deer.'			
/asi	dit	gəvan	co:b /
We-1pl-Nom	Aux	cow-Acc	v-beat
'We beat the cows'			

Dative Case

The dative case designates the indirect object of a transitive verb. Nouns having the role of recipient (as of things given), beneficiary of an action, or possessor of an item are datives. The context plays a crucial factor in differentiating between dative and accusative. In Kashmir-pahari, the dative markers is /-as/ or /-an/.

Examples;

/raman	dits	ʃa:m-as	kita:b/
ram-3sg-Erg	v-give-pst	shyam-Dat	book
'Ram gave the book to Shyam'			
/si:ta:n	ði:tʃa:v	pa:ts-an	ba:ti/
sita-3sg-Erg	v-serve-pst	guests-Dat	food

	'Sita served the food to the guests'

Instrumental Case

This case is used to denote instrument with which the action is performed. In Kashmir-pahari, the Instrumental case marker are realized as /sɪd/ , /sɪ/ or /-sɪtən/ as in follows;

Examples:

	<i>menikalmisi:tle:kʰ</i>
	My 1 st -sg-pos pen-Inst v-write-Imp.
	'Write with my pen'
	/ra:mantsət ləkɪrɪmaktsisi:t /
	3-sg-Dat v-cut-imp wood-Acc axe-Inst
	'Ram cut the wood with the axe'

Ablative Case

Ablative case is a case that expresses movement of the subject or the object from one place to another either at the spatial plane or at the temporal plane is expressed by the ablative case. In this language ablative case marker is /-paitʰ/ as in following.

Examples:

	/dʒu:laipaitʰ(Abl) cʰɪba:ri:ʃʃu:ru/
	'Rain starts from the month of July.'
	/ðo:fpaitʰ (Abl) paipa:tirva:si:θ/
	'The leaves fall from the tree'

Genitive Case or Possessive Case

Genitive case is a case in which the referent of the marked noun is the possessor of the referent of another noun. This case expresses the meaning of belonging to or possession of something by the subject. It is also known as possessive case. In Kashmir-Pahari, the Genitive case markers are realized as follows;

Examples:

	/ main fu:d/
	I-Sg-Gen children
	'My children'
	/mʰo:nneɕu:/
	i-gen-sg-masc son
	'my son'

	/ sə:natʰi/
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	I-pl-Gen hands
	'our hands'

Locative Case

Locative case is a case that expresses location at the referent of the noun it marks. The location of the subject or object is expressed by the locative case marker. In Kashmir-Pahari, the locative case marker is realized as in follows:

Examples;

	/ dʒa:nvar c ^h i zimi:nas manz/
	animals v-be field-Loc
	'The animals are in the field'
	/to:ti c ^h u kulis-peṭ ^h /
	parrot v-be tree-Loc.
	'The parrot is on the tree'

Ergative Case

Ergativity, '... grammatical pattern in which the subject of an intransitive clause is treated in the same way as the object of a transitive clause, and differently from transitive subject (Dixon 1994:1). In Kashmir-Pahari, the ergative case marker is realized as in follows;

Example

K	/raman dits ʃa:m-as kita:b/
	ram-3sg-Erg v-give-past sheyam-Dat book
	'Ram gave the book to Shyam'
P	/ si:ta:n ði:t sa:v pa:ts-an ba:ti/
	sita-3sg-Erg food guests-Dat v-feed
	'Sita served the food to the guests'

Postpositions

Postpositions, unlike case markings, have specific semantic contentsuch as benefaction, manner, or location. In Kashmiri, postpositionsdivide into two types:

Type I: Postpositions governing the dative case

Postpositions	Examples
/peṭ ^h / 'on, upon'	/bi c ^h es kulis peṭ ^h / 'I am on the tree'
/manz/ 'in'	/asi t ^h əv ga:v gonas manz/ 'We led the cows to the shed.'
/si:t/ 'with, along with'	/jiji: me si:t/

'He came along with me'

Type II: Postpositions governing the ablative case

Postpositions	Examples
/peɽ ^{hi} / 'from'	/ru:ð peji dzila:j peɽ ^{hi} / 'Rain starts from the month of July'
/k ^h ətri/ 'for'	/bi ^h es pan nisbac ci sinðk ^h ətribaɽi ʃarmanði/ 'I feel sorry for my son'
/tal/ 'under'	/huc ^h ukulistal ken ʃuɽan/ 'He sleeps under the tree'

Conclusion

Kashmir-Pahari has a two-tier number and gender system. Generally, countable nouns form their plurals from singular forms usually by suffixation except in few cases where nouns are pluralized by vowel modifications and prefixations. Kashmir-Pahari reports many examples of suppletion, vowel modification and suffixation. Like other languages, in Kashmir-Pahari also, semantic relation between a noun phrase (s) or subject and a predicate is expressed by the grammatical category of case. The Kashmir-Pahari nouns are inflected for Nominative, Dative, Ergative, Instrumental, Genitive and Accusative cases. It has been observed that the written form is more close to Kashmiri language but in its spoken form it is more close to Dogri-Pahari language.

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