A Note on Khah Morphology

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Abstract

The present paper takes up the study of Khah speech variety and aims to describe its basic morphology. The study also aims to highlight points of similarity between Khah and Poguli and/or Khah and Kashmiri.

Keywords

Introduction

The Banihal area of the state of Jammu and Kashmir presents a wide assortment of linguistic diversity. The languages/dialects spoken in this area, and along the whole belt, include Kashmiri, Poguli and Khah etc. Poguli has been called as the dialect of Kashmiri, along with Kishtwari (Grierson 1919, Schmidt and Koul 1984). Khah, spoken in the upper areas of Banihal town and many parts of Phagu, Doligam, Chamalwaas, Neel and Khari etc., resembles closely with Poguli. Although the Poguli speakers do not consider Khah as a language/dialect, the speakers of this (Khah) variety believe they speak a language/dialect distinct from Poguli.

Methodology

The data has been collected from the Banihal area of the Ramban district where the Khah speakers are concentrated. The data was collected by recording the Khah speech using sophisticated voice recorders. The data

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was analysed and compared with the Kashmiri spoken in the valley and with Poguli spoken in Pogul area of Ramban district.

Khah Morphology

Number

Khah pluralises its nouns using many techniques like palatalization and suffixation just like Kashmiri. Even the suffixes used are similar to Kashmiri because both use [ɨ] and [i] etc. to pluralise their nominal stems. Sometimes there is change in the coda consonant followed by an addition of the vowel. Below is given a list of nouns in Khah and how they are pluralized:

Singular	Plural	Gloss
a:th	a:thɨ	hand/s
zaŋ	zaŋgɨ	leg/s
kita:b	kita:bɨ	book/s
gãv	gɔtrɨ	cow/s
hun	hunɨ	dog/s

The above words are pluralized by adding [ɨ] suffix to the singular to form the plural. It is also used in Kashmiri for pluralization although certain words may differ in the pattern. Here are some examples from Kashmiri:

Singular	Plural	Gloss
kɔl	kɔlɨ	stream/s
tre:l	tre:lɨ	apple/s
ke:l	ke:lɨ	banana/s
na:v	na:vɨ	boat/s

Pluralization by the addition of [i] marker is seen both in Kashmiri as well as Khah. Below is a list of Khah nouns and their plurals:

Singular	Plural	Gloss
bra:R	bra:Ri	cat/s
gogɨR	gogRi	rat/s
si:r	se:ri	brick/s
guš	guši	girl/s

Similarly Kashmiri uses the [i] marker to pluralize its nouns as:

Singular	Plural	Gloss
də:r	da:ri	window/s
kən^j	kani	stone/s
si:r	se:ri	brick/s
ku:r	ko:ri	daughter/s

In Kashmiri, however, addition of [i] to the singular to pluralize it may be accompanied by vowel change, which is quite rare in Khah where the vowel in the singular is retained in the plural as well. However, in /si:r/ 'brick' vs. /se:ri/ 'bricks', there is a vowel change seen in Khah.

In Kashmiri palatalization is used as a plural marker. Khah, however, has rare cases of using palatalization as a feature for pluralization of nouns. The only example reported is as below:

Singular	Plural	Gloss
rɔnD	rɔnD^j	stone/s

Below are some examples of Kashmiri in which Palatalization is used to pluralize the nominal stems:

Singular	Plural	Gloss
gur	gur^j	horse/s
kul	kul^j	tree/s
hu:n	hu:n^j	dog/s

Gender

Khah nouns show two tier gender systems i.e. Masculine and Feminine.

Masculine	Feminine	Gloss
kukuR	kukɨR	cock/hen
muhan	kuDmehe:n	man/woman
dã:t	gãv	bull/cow
hun	hun^j	dog/bitch

The above examples show that Khah nouns change their gender by different way.

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.

Nominative

It is unmarked and does not take any case marker.

> ãv čhus muhun
> i-nom be-pr-1sg-masc man
> I am a man.

> ãv čhas guš
> i-nom be-pr-1sg-fem girl
> I am a girl.

> as čhusan bakaT
> we-nom be-pr-1pl-masc boy-pl
> We are boys.

> tu čhas bakaT
> you-nom be-pr-2sg-masc boy
> You are a boy.

> tu čhas guš
> you-nom be-pr-2sg-fem girl
> You are a girl.

> tu čhath bakaT
> you-nom be-pr-2pl-masc boy
> You are boys.

> tu čhath guši
> you-nom be-pr-2pl-fem girl
> You are girls.

> su čhu bakaT
> he-nom be-pr-3sg-masc boy
> He is a boy.

> sɔ čhi guš
> she-nom be-pr-3sg-fem girl

       She is a girl.

Ergative

It is morphologically realized e.g.

       tim^j ke: kath

       he-erg do-past talk

       He talked.

       mi: paRti: yakh kita:b

       I-erg read-past one book

       I read a book.

       mi: bakaT ba:lti:

       i-erg boy see-past

       I saw the boy.

Genitive

Genitive case is also morphologically realized. e.g.

       m^{j}o:n a:th

       i-gen-sg-masc hand

       My hand.

       me:n^j oŋgli

       i-gen-sg-fem finger

       My finger.

       m^{j}o:n n^{j}uk

       i-gen-sg-masc son

       My son.

       me:n^j kəmi:z

       i-gen-sg-fem shirt

       My shirt.

       asõ: maka:n

       i-gen-pl-masc house

       Our house.

tⁱu:n khur
you-gen-sg-masc foot
Your foot.

Dative

tes čhi di bakaT/nikɨ
he-dat be-perf two son-pl
He has two sons.

yu kalam di maji:das
this pen give-imp majid-dat
Give this pen to Majid.

timⁱ ditⁱ me pã:tsh rɔpyi
he-erg give-past i-dat five rupees
He gave me five rupees

Locative

mukuDra:th čhi jaŋglas mãz
monkey-nom-pl be-pr-3pl-masc forest-loc in
Monkeys are in the forest.

Instrumental

mi: pen si:tⁱ lekhti
i-erg pen-instr with write-past
I wrote with a pen.

ləkɨD tsaTi makh si:tⁱ
(you) wood-acc cut-imp axe-instr
Cut the wood with an axe.

Pronouns

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

		Nominative	**Agentive**	**Genitive**	**Dative**
1ˢᵗ	Singular Masc/Fem	ãv	mi:	mʲoːn	me
	Plural Masc/Fem	as	ase	asoː	-
2ⁿᵈ	Singular Masc/Fem	tu	tuse	tusoː	ti
	Plural Masc/Fem	tẽv	-	tiːndʲ	-
3ʳᵈ	Singular Masc/Fem	su/sɔ	ten	tesõː/tesay	tes/teseː
	Plural Masc/Fem	tẽv	tim	tʲuːn	tevun

Verb

Khah auxiliary verb paradigm is similar to Kashmiri. It is also similar to the Poguli auxiliary. The auxiliary verb in Khah and Poguli agrees with the subject in number, person and gender just like it is in Kashmiri. The similarity of the auxiliary verb paradigm in Kashmiri, Poguli and Khah makes it vivid that the three are related to a larger extent at the morphological level. Khah auxiliary behaves just like it behaves in Kashmiri and Poguli. Even when the auxiliary is marked for past tense, it behaves the same way and agrees with the subject in number, person and gender. In past tense, however, the Khah auxiliary takes a different form /oːthus/ 'I was' as against Kashmiri /oːsus/ 'I was'. The following table shows the paradigm of the verb 'be' in Khah:

Tense	Person	**Masculine**		**Feminine**	
		Singular	**Plural**	**Singular**	**Plural**
Present	1ˢᵗ	čhus	čhisan	čhas	čhasan
Present	2ⁿᵈ	čhas	čhath	čhas	čhath
Present	3ʳᵈ	čhu	čhi	čhi	čhi
Past	1ˢᵗ	oːthus	aːsan	aːčhas	aːčhi
Past	2ⁿᵈ	oːthus	aːsath	aːčhas	aːčhath
Past	3ʳᵈ	oːth	aːth	eːth	aːčhi

Past Tense Marker in Khah

In Khah /ti:/ is used as past tense marker. Below are some examples:

mi: paRti: yakh kita:b
I-erg read-past one book
I read a book.

mi: bakaT ba:lti:
i-erg boy see-past
I saw the boy.

mi yakh čiTh[j] likhti:
i-erg one letter write-past
I wrote a letter.

Progressive Marker in Khah

Khah progressive aspect marker is different from the one seen in Kashmiri. Instead of /a:n/ used in (Srinagar) Kashmiri, Khah uses /ti/ to connote that an action is happening at the moment and also that it is used in the present indefinite sense the same way as Kashmiri employs its own progressive marker /a:n/. Khah having a different progressive aspect marker than Kashmiri implies that it may be because of the lack of one-to-one contact between the speakers of Kashmiri and Khah. "Language contact, in principle, is speaker contact" (Hock, 2011)[1] and since the same is lacking here, Khah may have developed many morpho-syntactic elements like progressive marker, word order etc. that are not the same in Kashmiri. This is worthy to be mentioned here that Poguli also uses the same progressive marker /ti/ as used by Khah rather than that of Kashmiri /a:n/. This also gives us the clue that Khah and Poguli are but the same language/dialect rather than two different languages. A list of sentences below gives the account of how Khah uses its progressive aspect marker /ti/.

Khah

ãv o:thus paRti

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[1] Hans H. Hock. 2011. In a lecture at Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore during the Refresher Course on Language Contact in South Asia (10th January 2011- 31st January 2011).

i-nom be-past-1sg-masc read-prog
I was reading.

tu o:thus ba:t kha:lti
you-nom be-past-2sg-masc food eat-prog
You were eating food.

as a:san nɨ laDə:y karti
we-nom be-1pl not fight do-prog
We were not fighting.

Here it is also evident that Khah has the same negative particle /nɨ/ as seen in Kashmiri.

Poguli, as already stated, uses [ti] as progressive marker like Khah and not [a:n] as does Kashmiri. Below are some examples:

Poguli

ãv čhus ti:nd^j ziba:n rika:D karti
i-nom be-pr-1sg-masc. you-gen-pl language record do-prog
I am recording your language.

sɔ čhi kha:lun bana:vti
she-nom be-pr-3sg-fem food cook-prog
She is cooking the food.

n^juk čhu ga:D kha:lti
boy-nom be-pr-3sg-masc fish-sg eat-prog
The boy is eating fish.

Numeral
The Khah numerals are more related to Poguli than to Kashmiri as:

Kashmiri Gloss	Khah	Poguli
akh one	yakh	yakh
zɨ two	di:	di
tre three	ča:y	ča:y
tso:r four	tsavar	tsavɨr
pã:tsh five	pã:tsh	pã:ts
še six	še	še
sath seven	sa:t	sath
ə:Th eight	a:Th	aTh
nãv nine	nãv	nav
dah ten	dah	dah
kah eleven	kah	kah
bah twelve	bah	bah
truvah thirteen	truvah	truvah
tsɔdah fourteen	tsɔdah	tsodah
pandah fifteen	pastah	pastah
surah sixteen	šuRah	šo:Rah
sadah seventeen	sadah	sadah

arɨdah	aRɨdah	aRɨdah
eighteen		
kunɨvuh	kunɨvih	kunɨvuh
nineteen		
vuh	vih	vih
twenty		
trɨh	trih	tri
thirty		
tsatjih	tsæli	tsæli
forty		
pantsah	pãtsah	pãtsah
fifty		
hath	ha:t	hat
hundred		

It is clear from the above that Khah and Poguli numerals are very much similar. Khah and Poguli- claimed by their speakers to be one and the same thing- do not differ much from each other. Lexically there may be many instances when these two differ from each other but in numerals they are very much related. This may, then, be assumed that Poguli and Khah are but one language but geographically distributed in such a way that their speakers are not in language contact with each other. It may be because of this lack of language contact that the two may have developed a different lexicon.

Below is the list of sentences to show the correspondences between Kashmiri and Khah:

Kashmiri	**Khah**
Yim čhi me:khɨ	yãv čhi me:kh
this-nom-pl be-pr-3pl nails	this-nom-pl be-pr-3pl nails
These are nails.	These are nails.
bɨ go:s to:r	ãv go:s utho
I-nom go-past there (remote)	I-nom go-past there
I went there.	I went there. .

su a:v yo:r
he -nom come-past here
He came here.

su a:v yuho:r
he-nom come-past here
He came here.

təm^j kər kath
he-erg do-past talk
He talked.

tim^j ke: kath
he-erg do-past talk
He talked.

me pər akh kita:b
I-erg read-past one book
I read a book.

mi: paRti: yakh kita:b
I-erg read-past one book
I read a book.

toh^j kati čhiv ro:za:n

you-hon where be-pr live
Where do you live?

tu ko:r reh čhus

you where live be-pr
Where do you live?

Conclusion

Khah, which is in close contact with the Kashmiri speaking areas of the Banihal area of the Ramban district, shares many linguistic features with Kashmiri language like the pluralization of Khah nouns using many techniques like palatalization and the suffixes as similar to Kashmiri. The Khah nouns are inflected for nominative, ergative, genitive, dative, locative and instrumental cases. Khah and Poguli share almost all linguistic features with each other except some lexical or phonological variations. This may be due to the reason that Khah is in close contact with Kashmiri speech than Poguli as the areas are geographically separated from each other and the contact between the Khah and Poguli speakers is restricted.

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