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Some aspects of Poguli Kashmiri Comparison

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Abstract

The Jammu and Kashmir State is a multilingual state with a number of languages/dialects spoken by its people. These languages primarily fall in three distinct language families namely Indo-Aryan, Dardic and Tibeto-Burman. The Pir-Panjal range of Jammu and Kashmir is a linguistic diversity in itself considering the variety of languages spoken in that belt. The languages/dialects spoken here include Kishtwari, Poguli, Siraji, Gojri and Rambani, etc. Poguli, a dialect of Kashmir spoken in many villages of the Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir is a comparatively hitherto unexplored dialect. The present paper, besides providing a description of Poguli, aims to highlight its comparison with Kashmiri.

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Introduction

Linguistically, Jammu and Kashmir is a multilingual area. Diverse speech communities are found in Jammu and Kashmir State speaking different languages and dialects. The languages of Jammu & Kashmir are broadly arranged into three language families, i.e.

- i) Indo-Aryan
- ii) Dardic and
- iii) Sino-Tibetan

From a language perspective, the main mother tongues in the state are Kashmiri, Dogri, Ladakhi, Balti, Pahari, Gojri, Purkhi, Punjabi, Shina, Burushaski, Kohistani, Pashtu, etc. Urdu is the official language of Jammu and Kashmir, whereas Kashmiri, Dogri and Ladakhi hold premier positions in Kashmir, Jammu and Ladakh provinces respectively. The rest of the languages can be regarded as minority languages because the number of their native speakers is considerably low.

As per Grierson (1919) and Kachru (1969), Kashmiri has four regional dialects which are spoken outside the Kashmir Valley. These include Kashtawari,

Poguli, Rambani and Siraji. Poguli has no written tradition and no published literature other than some folk songs printed locally. After the early sketches published in Bailey (1908) and Grierson (1919), it has received very little attention from linguists.

Pogul is the mountainous region drained by Pogul stream, a tributary of Bichlari that comes from the eastern mountains of Banihal. As per a local narrative, Poguli is simply the language of a people who live in an area covered by 'poh' trees - a local species. That area came to be known as *poh gully*- the alleyway of Poh trees and the speech variety became as Poguli. There are, however, many other narratives that try to decipher the etymology of the word *Pogul* or *Poguli*. The area is rugged and mountainous and the people are hardy. As per census 1961, population of Poguli speakers are 9,508 but the local Poguli speakers claim that their population is more than 60,000. Also their claim is that they are spread almost every corner of Ramban district. The area beyond Pogul is called Paristan, which literally means the abode of Fairies or Sainly person of high miraculous powers. The area is rugged and mountainous and very scarcely populated. It also includes the Neel mountainous region. Poguli is bordered on the east by Kashtawari, on the south by Rambani and Siraji, and on the west by mixed dialects of Lahanda and Pahari.

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The speakers of Poguli are found mainly to the south, south-east and south-west of Banihal. Poguli shares many linguistic features including 70% vocabulary with Kashmiri (Koul and Schmidt 1984).

Poguli is spoken outside the Kashmir valley mainly in Pogul and Paristan valleys of district Ramban in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The main villages where Poguli is spoken are Pogul, Paristan, Ukhral, Shaligad, Neil, Khari, Bingar, Sinabati, Gonuut, Baas, Sarogni, Chamalvas, Amikot, Trugam, Alam Bagh, Chunthan, Nowgam, Maligam, Panchal, Kharvaan, Dradi, Ramsu, Makarkot, Banihal, Ramban main etc.

Regarding domains of use, Poguli is a language of home exclusively in the vicinity of Poguli speaking areas. Moreover, Poguli is also spoken in most of the other domains as well. However, apart from Poguli, other languages like Urdu, Kashmiri, Siraji, etc are also used in different domains.

Methodology

A field trip to Pogul-Paristan of Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir state was carried in the summer of 2012. In order to arrive at a descriptive sketch of Poguli, a questionnaire was used containing sentences and words. For the sake of phonological and lexical variation, speech of native speakers of Poguli was recorded by using ZOOM voice recorder model H4. The data was later carefully transcribed. The aims of the study included

lexical and phonological comparison between Poguli and Kashmiri.

understanding the basic morphosyntax of Poguli.

POGULI MORPHOLOGY

NUMBER

Poguli pluralizes its nouns using suffixation just like Kashmiri. Even the suffixes used are similar to Kashmiri because both use [i], [i], etc. to pluralize 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 Poguli and how they are pluralized:

Singular	Plural	Gloss
kuR	kuRi	girl/s
a:th	a:thi	hand/s
khur	khuri	foot/feet
n ^l uk	niki	baby/babies
kəmi:z	kəmi:zi	shirt/s
kita:b	kita:bi	book/s
zaŋ	zaŋgi	leg/s
gāv	gōtri	cow/s
dā:t	dā:ti	bull/s
hun	huni	dog/s

The above words are pluralized by adding [i] suffix to the singular to form the plural. This strategy is also used in Kashmiri for pluralization although certain words may differ in the pattern. Some corresponding examples from Kashmiri are given below.

Singular	Plural	Gloss
kəl	kəli	stream/s
tre:l	tre:li	apple/s
ke:l	ke:li	banana/s
na:v	na:vi	boat/s

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

Singular	Plural	Gloss
bra:R	bra:Ri	cat/s
th'en	th ^l oni	arm/s

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

Singular	Plural	Gloss
də:r	də:ri	window/s
kən ^l	kani	stone/s
si:r	se:ri	brick/s
Ku:r	ko:ri	daughter/s

GENDER

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

Masculine	Feminine	Gloss
kaTlo	tse:l	Goat
pupha:y	pu:ph	uncle/aunty
su	sɔ	he/she
mohan	kuDmæn	man/woman
kukuR	kukɪR	cock/hen
dā:t	gāv	bull/cow
hun	hun ^l	dog/bitch
khavād	zana:n	husband/wife
čho:ch	lokhčhe	uncle/aunty
sha:hur	sah	father/mother (in law)
zamotru	nuh	son/daughter (in law)

The above examples show that Poguli nouns change their gender by different way and same is being

found in Kashmiri.

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.

POGULI

ãv o:sus kath karti
i-nom be-past-1sg talk do-prog
I was talking.

n^huk čhu kha:lti
boy-nom be-pr eat-prog
The boy is eating.

ãv paD čhus
i-nom read be-pr
I read.

Ergative

It is morphologically realized e.g.

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

mi yakh ga:D raTči
i-erg one fish catch-past
I caught a fish.

Genitive

Genitive case is also morphologically realized. e.g.

m^ho:n a:th
i-gen-sg-masc hand
My hand.

me:n^h ongli
i-gen-sg-fem finger
My finger.

Dative

A noun or pronoun of a ditransitive verb which functions as the recipient/benefactor of the action performed by the agent marks dative case. e.g.

da:rath guTho ba:li
(you) window-dat through
look-imp
Look through the window.

me væni yakh kaha:ni
i-dat tell-imp-(you) one story
Tell me a story.

morphologically.

Nominative

Any noun or pronoun that is the subject of a verb is to be in nominative case. It is unmarked and does not take any case marker.

KASHMIRI

bi o:sus kath kara:n
i-nom be-past-1sg talk do-prog
I was talking.

ladki chu kheva:n
boy-nom be-pr eat-prog
The boy is eating.

bi chus para:n
i-nom be-pr read
I read.

me vuch ladki
i-erg boy see- past
I saw the boy

me reT akh ga:d
i-erg catch-past one fish
I caught a fish

m^ho:n athi
i-gen-sg-masc hand
My hand

me:n^h ongij
i- gen-sg-fem finger
My finger

da:ri kin^h vičh
(you) window-dat through
look-imp
Look through the window.

me van akh dali:l
i-dat tell one story
Tell me a story

yu kalam di kari:mas
this pen give-imp karim-dat
Give this pen to Karim.

yi kalam di kari:mas
this pen give karim dat
Give this pen to Karim

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

temis chi zi nechiv
he-dat be-perf two son-pl
He has two sons

Locative

It marks location of the subject. Postpositions used for locative case in Poguli are bi, mǎz e.g.

čandus mǎz pǎs tra:vi
(you) pocket-loc in money put-imp
Put the money in the pocket.

chandas mǎz tra:v ponsi
pocket-loc in money put
Put the money in the pocket

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

pənz chi jaŋglas mǎz
monkey-nom-pl be-pr-3pl-masc
forest-loc in
Monkeys are in the forest

Instrumental

An instrument (noun) used by an agent to perform the action denotes instrumental case. Here -si, si:tʰ etc. postposition is used as:

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

me lyokh penI si:tʰ
i-erg pen-instr write-past
I wrote with a pen.

ka:Thi tsaTi makh si:tʰ
(you) wood-acc cut-imp axe-instr
Cut the wood with an axe.

ləkIr tsaT maktsi si:tʰ
wood-acc cut-imp axe-instr
Cut the wood with an axe.

Ablative:

It shows the separation of an object, person, and thing from a source. Here also the postposition is used. [-at] is used as the postposition in Poguli.

patr kəl-at pe:ti čhih
leaf-pl tree-abl fall-pr
Leaves fall from the tree.

panivəθir čhi kuli peThi peva:n
leaf-pl be-pr tree-abl from fall
Leaves fall from the tree.

a:m a:th-at pe:ti
mango-pl-nom hand-abl
fell-past
Mangoes fall from the hands.

ambi pʰeyi athi mǎz
mango-pl fell-past hand-abl
from
Mangoes fall from the hands.

Agentive

Subjects used in sentences where the verb is in past tense being transitive in nature, are marked for Agentive case as:

mi: tso:r raTilo:
i-ag thief catch-past
I caught the thief.

me ɾɔT tsu:r
i-ag catch-past thief
I caught the thief.

mi: gāv ma:r diti
i-ag cow beat-prog give-past
I beat the cow

me lo:y gʰo:v
i-ag beat-prog cow.
I beat the cow

Poguli progressive aspect marker is different from the one seen in Kashmiri. Instead of /a:n/ used in (Srinagar) Kashmiri, Poguli 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/. Poguli 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 Poguli. Poguli has developed many morpho-syntactic elements like progressive marker, word order etc. that is not found in Kashmiri. A list of sentences below gives the account of how Poguli uses its progressive aspect marker /ti/.

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.

so 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:liti

boy-nom be-pr-3sg-masc fish-pl eat-prog

The boy is eating fish.

Pronominals and numerals are those linguistic items that change the least during a language contact situation and retain most of the antiquity if at all they change. "Personal pronouns differ in their diachronic behaviour from all other grammatical categories. They are diachronically fairly stable and belong to the most conservative parts of grammar". Thus two languages which are contiguous may have developed a common lexicon but there is a strong possibility that their pronominal and numeral system might be altogether different. Lexical borrowing, in most cases, can be motivated by such factors as need, prestige etc. Thus a language may take a word from another language with which it is in contact due to these reasons. Structural diffusion, however, is more difficult to motivate along the same lines. Poguli-claimed to be one of the dialects of Kashmiri along with Kishtwari (Koul and Schmidt, 1984)- although sharing a fair bit of the lexicon with Kashmiri, has

developed a partially distinct pronominal system which, however, is traceable from Kashmiri though some of the pronouns are entirely deviant from Kashmiri cognates like; Poguli /ãv/ vs. Kashmiri /bi/ meaning 'I' and Poguli /tuso:/ vs. Kashmiri /čo:n/ meaning 'your'. Certain others differ only in having a vowel change for example, Poguli /tesund/ vs. Kashmiri /tasund/ meaning 'his/her' and Poguli /as/ vs. Kashmiri /əs^j/ meaning 'we'. And there are also few pronouns in Poguli which do not differ from their Kashmiri cognates like /m^jo:n/ meaning 'my', /yi/ meaning 'this' and /su/ meaning 'he'. The list of pronominals from Poguli and Kashmiri are given below:

Poguli	Kashmiri	Gloss
ãv	bi	I
as	əs ^j	we
tus	tsi	you(sg)
têv	toh ^j	you(pl)
su	su	he
m ^j o:n	m ^j o:n	my
aso:	so:n	our
tuso:	čo:n	your
tesund	tasund	his/her
têv	tim	they
tevun	t ^j uhund	their
yêv	yimi	these
yi	yi	this

COMPARISON OF POGULI AND KASHMIRI

Poguli and Kashmiri have many similarities in their lexicon. There are many lexical items that are common to Poguli and Kashmiri. A list of lexical items given below gives insights into the sort of similarity and dissimilarity between the two:

Poguli	Kashmiri	Gloss
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niki	ləDki	boy	pā:ts	pā:tsh	five
kuR	ku:r	girl	še	še	six
ku:Ri	ko:ri	girls	sath	sath	seven
gu:R	gur	horse	aTh	ə:Th	eight
go:Ri	gur ^j	horses	nav	nāv	nine
kitæbi	kita:bi	books	dah	dah	ten
kukuR	kəkur	cock	vih	vuh	twenty
kukRi	kəkri	hens	tri	trih	thirty
hun	hu:n	dog	tsæli	tsatjih	forty
kuDmæn	zən ^j	woman	patsa	pātsah	fifty
kəl	kul	tree	hat	hath	hundred
kəli	kul ^j	trees			
me:kh	k ⁱ ul	nail			
nuh	nosh	daughter-in-law			
cho:ch	pitir	uncle			
lokhche	p ^j echin	aunty			
zana:n	zana:n	wife			
sa:la	səjiv	brother-in-law			
se:l	sa:l	sister-in-law			
katsh	katsh	armpit			
ach	əch	eye			
lemuR	viTh	lip			
loT	kali	head			
much	mithir	urine			
z ^j ev	zev	tongue			
muhi:	buth	face			

Similarly in case of numerals in Poguli, there is enough similarity to suggest that the two (Poguli and Kashmiri) may be from the same stock of languages or may be dialects of each other. Koul and Schmidt (1983) cite Poguli to be one of the dialects of Kashmiri. However, Poguli differs in its morpho-syntactic patterns from Kashmiri as shown earlier. The list of numerals is given as below:

Poguli	Kashmiri	Gloss
yakh	akh	one
di	zi	two
ča:y	tre	three
tsavir	tso:r	four

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

Poguli	Kashmiri
yit ^j čhi di bræRi	yeti čhi zi biə:r ^j
here be-pr two cat-pl	here be-pr two cat-pl
Here are two cats.	Here are two cats.
tim mi ba:lti	timov vučhus bi
they-erg i-acc see-past	they-erg see-past i-acc
They saw me.	They saw me.
mi ka:r kor	me kər kə:m
i-erg work do-past	i-erg do-past work
I did work.	I did work.
ro:d peh čhu	ru:d čhu peva:n
rain fall be-prog	rain be-prog fall
It is raining.	It is raining.
ra:man onto: ša:l	ra:man mo:r sɪh
ram-erg kill-past tiger	ram-erg kill-past tiger
Ram killed a tiger.	Ram killed a tiger.

CONCLUSION

Poguli, which is spoken in Pogal-Paristan areas of district Ramban of state Jammu and Kashmir, shares many linguistic features with Kashmiri language like the pluralization of Poguli nouns using many

techniques like suffixes as similar to Kashmiri. Kashmiri /māz/ is a cognate of Poguli postposition. Historically there are enough resemblances between Poguli and Kashmiri. Over a period of time these languages have developed indigenous vocabulary of their own but the correspondences between them remain. Grierson (1919) regards Poguli as the dialect of Kashmiri. Poguli and Kashmiri use different progressive markers. Poguli has developed a distinct pronominal system as compared to Kashmir. Only few pronominals of Poguli are found similar to Kashmiri. Kashmiri and Poguli share many linguistic features with each other except some lexical or phonological variations.

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