

SOCIAL STRATIFICATION OF ALLOPHONIC VARIATION IN PUNJABI LANGUAGE



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CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

The dissertation entitled *Social Stratification of Allophonic Variation in Punjabi Language* submitted by Iram Amjad bearing Roll # 13014084004 has been accepted in partial fulfillment of requirements for the degree of M. Phil in Applied Linguistics by the Department of English Language and Literature, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Management and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan.

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DEDICATION

To all those women who want to live an honorable and uprighteous life!

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I am deeply indebted to Dr. Muhammad Shaban, the Chairperson of Department of English Language and Literature, UMT for his meticulous supervision and encouragement at every step. This dissertation could not have attained completion without his support and generous advice. His constructive comments along with the insightful feedback raised the quality of my research study. When I chose the topic and started working on it, I had no idea how much reading it would involve and how far my critical faculties would be stretched. My supervisor provided me with inspirational guidance in giving my dissertation shape and form. He helped me in the completion of my work with his valuable advices. He was a source of great strength in trying times and for me it has been a very rewarding experience. He was the beacon whom I followed to conduct my research. Once again heartfelt thanks to Dr. Shaban for being such a supportive supervisor and having shown faith in my abilities.

My parents prayed for their daughter's success with such vehemence and sincerity that special appreciation must be conveyed.

I am grateful to my son, Fasih who sacrificed his play time for me and never disturbed me during my research study. In spite of the tender age that he is, he was never very demanding and tolerated his busy mother.

Iram Amjad

ABSTRACT

This study examines allophonic variation in Punjabi language – spoken in the capital city of Pakistani Punjab. A sample of 72 respondents was selected from beauty parlors representing high, middle and lower class income. To reveal social stratifications (i.e., class, gender and age) in the use of prevocalic and postvocalic 14 Punjabi variants were finalized. A quantitative approach was applied to address the research questions: (a) Do the allophonic variants [b] / [v] mark social stratification at the word onset position? (b) Do the allophonic variants [z] / [j] mark social stratification at the word coda position? (c) Whether or not do females use the standard allophonic variants [b] and [z] than males?, and (d) What is frequency of the use of allophonic variants [b] and [v] and [z] and [j] between parlor goers of (16 – 30 years old), (31 – 45 years old) and (46 – 60 years old)? Also, Chi-square was measured to investigate the association between social stratification and the use of allophones. The present study finds that the use of allophones at least in the beauty parlors of Lahore city mark social stratifications. While mapping out the allophonic usage, different respondents were found using different word variants or two lexical items with similar semantic representation. Hence, social variability of the people of Lahore city who frequently visit beauty parlors can be reflected through Punjabi allophony. This study will hopefully motivate future researchers to extend social stratification research whose subject-matter has been largely English to other languages.

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