

Phonemic variation experienced by Pakistani Immigrants in Sweden



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DEDICATION

I dedicate this research work to my beloved children, Fatima, Narmeen, Sareen and Habib Ullah

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ABSTRACT

This dissertation attempted to investigate the similitude and differences of Swedish and Urdu vowel inventories for the benefit of Pakistani immigrants living in Sweden. The participants of this study were Pakistani immigrants between 25-30 years of age and were regular students of SFI (Swedish for Immigrants). They were selected by using purposive sampling technique. It is a basic requirement for immigrants in Sweden to have at least basic level of knowledge of Swedish. Considering this fact, learning Swedish is very important for Pakistani immigrants. By using the exploratory research design, comparative analysis was used to answer the research question. Analysis shows that Urdu and Swedish are entirely different from each other with respect to phonological aspects that caused differences in vowels articulations. These differences made learning difficult but some similarities are also found in the mid-rounded and back rounded vowels that provided ease to learner in learning Swedish. The results of this study manifested that Swedish government needed to draw new language learning policies for immigrants that help them to learn Swedish language (with the accurate accent). Moreover, research studies reveals that there is a great need to open new SFI institutes in every commune so people could get admission on immediate bases. It is hoped that this research thesis would make some contribution in the field of linguistics.

Keywords: Language, Nationalism, Pakistani Immigrant, Phonemic Inventories, Standard Swedish, and Comparative Study

Summary in Swedish(Sammanfattning)

Invandring har blivit ett globalt fenomen över hela världen. Människor från hela världen lämnar sina hemländer på jakt efter bättre boende. Att flytta från ett ställe till ett annat är särskilt svårt eftersom det leder till att invandrare möter utmaningarna i andra länder. Denna avhandling belyser specifikt de problem som urduhögtalarna invandrare möter när de lär sig svenska. Svenska språket skiljer sig från urdu språket. Därför mötte människor från Pakistan många problem samtidigt som de lärde sig svenska. Svenska är national språk i Sverige och utan att förvärva kunskaper om svenska är det ganska svårt att få bra jobb. Om man vill stanna kvar i Sverige är svenska ett enda sätt som kan hjälpa till att stanna kvar och få bra jobb. Denna avhandling belyser problemen i vokaler. Ändring av vokalernas position leder till att människor möter svårigheter att formulera det exakta ljudet av svenska. Även om det finns få likheter har det hittats som hjälper språkläraren att lära sig svenska men de räcker inte för att få kompetens på svenska på tidiga baser. Denna studie framhäver också att de invandrare som är experter på engelska har större svårigheter än de ensamstående pakistanska invandrare. Analys visar att urdu och svenska är helt annolunda från varandra med avseende på fonologiska aspekter som orsakade skillnader i vokalerartiklar. Dessa skillnader gjorde lärandet svårt men vissa likheter återfinns också i de mittrundade och bakrundade vokalerna, som gjorde det lätt för eleven att lära sig svenska. Resultaten av denna studie visade att den svenska regeringen behövde dra upp nya språkinlärningspolitik för invandrare som hjälper dem att lära sig svenska språk (med exakt accent). Vidare avslöjar forskningsstudier att det finns ett stort behov av att öppna nya SFI-institut i varje kommun, så att människor kan få tillträde på omedelbara grunder. Man hoppas att denna forskningsavhandling skulle ge ett visst bidrag inom lingvistik.

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Chapter One

Introduction

1.1 Overview

The present study investigates the language learning issues confronted by Pakistani Urdu speakers in learning standard Swedish. This study investigates the similarities and differences in Swedish and Urdu phonemic inventories which greatly affect the accent and pronunciation of Pakistani immigrants to Sweden. Globalization has caused the people to come into contact and interact with each other. It has also caused the general population to consider multilingualism as a global phenomenon. The investigation of multilingualism has been a part and parcel of sociolinguistics and its purpose is to provide a theoretical perspective to the situation in which speakers of various languages came into contact in multilingual settings which enhances linguistic diversity (Collett, 2011).