

A comparative Study of Kinship Terms in Punjabi and Saraiki

By

Irfan Abbas

#100784019

Department of English Language and Literature
University of Management and Technology Lahore

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Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for M. Phil in Applied Linguistics

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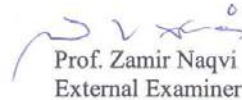
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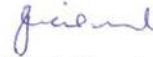
The dissertation entitled "**A comparative Study of Kinship Terms in Punjabi and Saraiki**" submitted by **Irfan Abbas** ID# **100784019** has been accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of MPhil in Applied Linguistics by the Department of English Language and Literature, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Management and Technology, Lahore.



Furrakh Abass
Supervisor



Prof. Zamir Naqvi
External Examiner



Prof. Rao Jaleel Ahmed
Chairman



Dr. Abdul Hameed
Dean

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A Comparative Study of Kinship Terms in Punjabi and Saraiki

Introduction:

The first chapter gives introduction of the thesis. It also explains the research questions, the aims of the research and its significance.

The terms of address used for different relatives are called kinship terms. These are the names assigned to different kin, e.g., father, mother, brother, sister, aunt, grandmother etc. These terms provide us information regarding bond of relationship which is existing between different individuals. These terms also determine the rights and limitations of individuals in a society. These terms are of great significance in the study of a culture because these terms provide such information as with whom one can or can't be frank, to whom one can or can't marry or from whom one can expect to get help in the hour of need.

Kinship system is part of kinship vocabulary of a culture and this system is universal to all the languages of the world. Different societies use different terms for their relatives. "Wife" in English is "Bivi" in Urdu, "Budhi" in Punjabi and "Pai" in Saraiki. Apart from these labeling differences some languages group relatives into entirely different categories. For example, in Dani language "ami" is used for mother's brother but the term "Opaije" is used for father as well as for father's brother. This linguistic difference shows the cultural value and status of individuals in any culture.

Punjabi is the most widely spoken language of Pakistan and is being spoken in different areas of Punjab. Saraiki is also spoken in different areas of Pakistan. Both the languages have much in

common but Saraiki speaking people always maintained that Saraiki is a different language. The differences between Saraiki and Punjabi languages have been pointed out by Aslam (2006).

He tried to trace out the differences between the two languages on the basis of some vocabulary items. But kinship terms were not included in that research.

In the present research the comparison will be made on the basis of kinship terms. This study covers both the core (blood relationships) and affinal (relationships established through marriage) relations. Father, mother, brother, sister, son, etc., are included in core kinship relations. Whereas in Affinal relations all those relations are included which are formed through the members of kinship relations.

The above discussion proves that the comparative study of kinship terms of two different languages can help in understanding the differences prevailing in two different languages. In the present study the kinship terms of Punjabi and Saraiki languages will be compared in order to find out the similarities and differences between these two languages.

1.2 Significance of the study:

This study will help in the cross cultural comparison and contrast of Punjabi and Saraiki speaking societies. The differences and similarities in family organization, gender roles and relations will be pointed out through the analysis of Kinship terms of Punjabi and Saraiki languages. These kinship terms reflect the linguistic pre conception of the speakers of their familial and emotional world in which they live and identify each other through the use of these labels.

1.3 Aims & Objectives of the Study:

The study investigates the kinship terms of Punjabi and Saraiki. The main objectives of the research are:

1. Make a list of kinship terms in Punjabi and Saraiki.
2. Find the similarities and differences between them.
3. Find the structural (phonological and lexical) reasons for these differences according to the general structural differences in the two languages.

1.4 Research Questions:

1. Whether or not there are any significant similarities and differences in kinship terms of Punjabi and Saraiki languages?
2. Whether or not there are general structural differences in these two languages which implicate corresponding differences in kinship terms?
3. Is there any mutual intelligibility present between the speakers of two languages regarding the knowledge of Kinship terms?

1.5 Rationale for the study:

The Punjabi and Saraiki are the two languages being spoken in the different areas of Punjab. In the previous studies kinship terms were used as a vehicle for comparing two different languages

or dialects. In the present study the kinship terms of both the languages will be studied in order to find out the similarities and differences present in the kinship terms of both the languages.

1.6 Methodology:

This study is both qualitative and quantitative in its approach. A sufficient amount of literature is reviewed on kinship terms. In order to analyze the differences and similarities between Saraiki and Punjabi, the quantitative investigation is also made.

1.7 Collection of data:

For the study 50 respondents of Punjabi language were selected randomly from the urban areas of Lahore. In the same way 50 respondents of Saraiki language were selected randomly from urban areas of Multan.

The researcher being the native speaker of Punjabi worked as a primary informant and prepared a questionnaire consisting of 56 kinship terms of Punjabi. The researcher interviewed 50 other speakers of the Punjabi and collected data from other sources in order to confirm his list. Then the researcher interviewed 50 Saraiki speakers in order to get list of Saraiki kinship terms.

1.08 Instrument

1. Interviews

1.09 Analysis:

After collecting the whole lists of kinship terms of both the languages the data will be analyzed to find out similarities and differences. The researcher will also try to determine whether the difference is phonological or lexical one.