

**The effects of Urdu Punjabi and English on Mewati lexical
items in Pakistan**



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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to investigate the effects of Urdu, Punjabi and English on Mewati lexical items in Pakistan. Mewati speech community migrated from the current state of Delhi, Haryana and Alwar, India and settled across various parts of Pakistan in 1947. After the migration, Mewati speech community eventually met various dialects and languages spoken across Pakistan. It seems as Mewati has been depleting ever since. There are striking differences in the speed of change across the various linguistic levels, such as phonology, lexis, syntax and semantics. The present study investigates intergenerational lexical shift in the Mewati language. Labov (1963, 1966) argues that language change can be observed through different age groups. Thus, the Apparent Time Hypothesis was considered for studying intergenerational lexical shift in the Mewati language. The data was collected from 60 participants belonging to three different age groups. The three age groups were composed of participants whose ages were between 10-25 years, 35-50 years, and 70-90 years, respectively. All the participants were residents of the province Punjab, which is in a way representative of the target population. A list of items of daily use along with their images was administered to elicit their responses. The study shows that there is more likely a significant lexical shift between (10-25) years old Mewati speakers. The second age group (35-50 years) was quite successful to retain some words. However, those who were between 70-90 years seem true representatives of the Mewati language because their responses were correct in all instances presented to them. There is reason to believe that the Mewati language would suffer badly after the death of last person in this age group. Nevertheless, with these findings we can safely speculate that the Mewati language is endangered.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

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DEDICATION

To my parents, sisters, brothers, my wife and sons, Who did everything for me to
achieve my goals in life which were humanely possible.

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Chapter one

Introduction

1.1 Chapter overview

The chapter describes the introduction and origin of Mewati language. First part of this chapter is the introduction of the research problem along with the origin of Mewati language in India and then its community in Pakistan. The second part of this chapter is about the purpose of the study. The third part of the chapter describes the objective of this study. At the last part presents the underlying research questions and summarizes the complete chapter.

1.2 Introduction

The Mewati word derived from Sanskrit, “Mina-vati” which means a land of a profuse in fish. Mewati means the resident of the territory of Mewat. Mewati origin is from Aryan, the Mewati people came to India in 1500BC. Aryan people speak Mewati and they settled down in many territories but most of them were settled in Rajasthan and Mewat district in Haryana. Mewati language is originated in India. It is widely spoken in the state of Haryana, Punjab, Gujrat and Madhya Pradesh in India. There are five million speakers of Mewati language and they are settled in Mewat districts of Haryana, Alwar Dholpur Bharatpur districts of Rajasthan, districts of Delhi and Districts of Punjab. The family from which the Mewati language belongs is the Indo-Aryan family. Meo is actually the society of the Muslim people from North-Western India (Forkel, Robert, Martin 2009).