

# Morphology of Hyderabad Dakhini Urdu

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## Abstract

Enter a short summary here. What topic do you want to investigate and why? What experiment did you perform? What were your main results and conclusion?

## 1 Nouns

### 1.1 Three Classes of Nouns

#### 1.1.1 Class 1: Marked Masculine Noun

- This type of noun terminates in the suffixes:
  - *-aa* in the nominative singular
  - *-e* in the nominative plural and in the oblique singular

Eg: child *baccha* (singular), *bacche* (plural)

cloth *kapRaa* (singular), *kapRe* (plural)

#### 1.1.2 Unmarked Masculine/Feminine Noun

- These nouns occur with the plural suffix *-aaN*

Eg: apple *seb* (singular), *sebaaN* (plural)

book *kitaab* (singular), *kitabaaN* (plural)

#### 1.1.3 Unmarked Masculine/Feminine

- These nouns occur with a zero plural suffix.

Eg: aunts *xaalaa* (singular), *xaalaa*(plural)

mango *aam* (singular), *aam* (plural)

### 1.2 Postposition Class

The postposition class is the class of, well, postpositions. This class influences nouns as all nouns occur with oblique-case suffixes before all members of this class. This is a closed class of functional morphemes, containing:

- *kaa/kii/ke*, 'of'

- kuu/ko, 'to'
- meN, 'in'
- pe, 'on'
- tak, 'until'

### 1.3 Variations

The below are the variations shown in the noun class between the different 'systems' of Dakhini rules.

#### 1.3.1 Weakening of Gender Distinction

Unmarked feminine nouns and loan words are often regarded as masculine in gender, even though this may not be grammatically correct within the main system.

#### 1.3.2 Assimilation into Class 3

A number of nouns that belong to classes 1 and 2 are treated by speakers as if they belong to class 3, deriving their plurals with the addition of a zero suffix.

#### 1.3.3 Interference from Standard Urdu

Standard urdu contains a practice where feminine nouns are classed separately from masculine nouns using suffixes. Dakhini speakers who have studied standard Urdu in schools occasionally attempt to use these suffixes in speech.

## 2 Adjectives

Adjectives fall into two classes: Marked and Unmarked.

### 2.1 Marked

- Marked adjectives terminate in *-aa/-e/-ii*.
- Marked adjectives agree in gender, number and case with the nouns they modify.
- This pattern of marked adjectives is similar to that found in standard urdu.

### 2.2 Unmarked

Unmarked adjectives do not agree with the nouns that they modify, and do not have any regular morphology.

## 3 Personal Pronouns

In free variation; however no single speaker's idiolect includes all the forms of pronouns listed.

### 3.1 First Person

- Nominative: maiN
- Oblique: muje

### 3.2 Second Person

- Nominative: tuu
- Oblique: tuje

### 3.3 Third Person

- Proximate Nominative: ine/ye
- Proximate Oblique: ise/is
- Distant Nominative: une/wo
- Distant Oblique: use/us

The existence of two types of third person pronouns is hypothesized to be because of the disappearance of the *Agentive Construction* in the past tense - i.e: standard urdu *ne* -i, *ine*, *une*

*hameN*, *tumheN* -i, the usage of these as nominative rather than oblique forms appears to be a Dakhini innovation

## 4 Relative and Interrogative Pronouns

Data concerning relative and interrogative pronouns is less, but we present the results that could be gathered.

The following interrogative pronouns occur in the Dakhini corpus: jo, kaun and kis kuu.

### 4.1 Reflexive Adjective

The reflexive adjective *apnaa/apnii/apne* occurs.

### 4.2 Variations

- Closer To The Paradigm = Wider Variety: speakers whose idiolects approach most closely to the primary system of Dakhini Urdu employ the widest variety of pronouns.
- Substitution of Plural for Singular: *ham* is sometimes substituted for *maiN*

- Interference From Standard Urdu: the standard Urdu second person honorific pronoun *aap* is sometimes used by Dakhini speakers, particularly by those who have studied standard Urdu in school.

## 5 Verbs

Four types of verb constructions:

### 5.1 Formed From Present Participle

- The present participle of a verb is formed by the suffixation of *-taa/-tii/-tee* to the verb root.
- Participles agree in gender and number with the subject of the sentence.

#### 5.1.1 Present Participle = Indefinite Tense

- The present participle occurs as the indefinite tense with the auxiliary 'hai' in declarative sentences.
- The present participle occurs as the indefinite tense without the auxiliary in interrogative and negative sentences

Eg:     – main jata hoon *I go*  
           – tu kya jata *you (interrogative marker) go*

#### 5.1.2 Present Participle + Past Auxiliary = Imperfect Tense

- An imperfect tense is formed from the present participle with the past auxiliary *thaa/thii/the*
- Example: ghar pe saawkaraaN aate the *The merchants used to come to our house*

#### 5.1.3 Adverbial: Present Participle ending in -te

- The present participle terminating in *-te* is used adverbially to indicate duration or to describe the context of an action.

#### 5.1.4 Variations

- Non-Use of the auxiliary hai in indefinite tense statements
- Disappearance of the feminine plural suffix
- Interference from standard urdu: occasionally the free form of the auxiliary occurs after present participles in Dakhini.

### 5.2 Formed From Past Participle

- Past participle is formed from the suffixing of *-aa/-ii/-a/-iiN* to the verb root.
- Past participle agrees with gender and number of the subject noun.

### 5.2.1 Past Participle = Past Tense

- The past tense can be formed by the past participle either occurring alone
- Or occurring with the auxiliary 'hai' bound to the verb stem.

### 5.2.2 Past Participle + Past Auxiliary = Pluperfect Tense

- A pluperfect tense is formed from the past participle with the past auxiliary *thaa/thii/the*

### 5.2.3 Adverbial: Past Participle ending in -e

Past participles terminating in -e are used adverbially to denote:

- Context of an action
- Followed by 'so' to denote the context of an action
- Followed by 'tak', meaning 'until'

### 5.2.4 Variations

- Non-use of the auxiliary *hai* in past tense constructions
- Disappearance of the feminine plural form

## 5.3 Based on Verb Root

### 5.3.1 Root + raa + hai = Continuous Present Tense

- The continuous present tense is constructed from the verb root and a postposition auxiliary *raa/rü/re/rai*, suffixed with a bound form of the auxiliary 'hai'

### 5.3.2 Root + raa + thaa = Past Continuous Tense

- The continuous past tense is constructed from the verb root and a postposition auxiliary *raa/rü/re/rai*, suffixed with a bound form of the auxiliary *thaa/thii/the*

### 5.3.3 Adverbial Construction: Special

The root verb itself is used as an adverbial to denote the last of any sequence of actions occurring in a consequent time context.

### 5.3.4 Variations

- Non-use of the auxiliary *hai* in the formation of the present continuous
- Two alternate forms of regular primary system constructions are found
- Interference from standard urdu: a number of people occasionally use the forms *rhaa/rhii/rhe* in place of *raa/rü/re*, and skip the ending auxiliary.
- Variant forms of *ko*

## 5.4 Verb Root + Inflectional Suffixes, Infinitives

### 5.4.1 Subjunctive

- The subjunctive form is formed exactly as in standard urdu
- The plural form of the subjunctive, ending in -eN, is not found in Dakhini

### 5.4.2 Verb root + zero suffix = imperative

The pronoun 'tuu', plus an infinite form of the verb with zero suffix, forms the imperative.

### 5.4.3 Subjunctive + gaa/gii = Future Tense

The future tense is formed by the addition of -gaa/-gii/-ge to the base provided by the subjunctive form.

### 5.4.4 Verb Root + naa = Infinitive

The infinitive is formed by the addition of -naa to the verb root.

### 5.4.5 Variations

- Substitution of the infinitive for the first person singular subjunctive
- Non-use of the future tense terminating in gaa
- Formation of the infinitive by the suffixation of -aunaa rather than naa

## 6 The Primary System of Dakhini Urdu

The primary system is considered to be that version of the dialect which:

- Contains a maximum number of historically derived distinctions
- Contains a minimum number of innovations in the use of historical forms
- Contains a minimum number of forms or constructions borrowed from other languages

### 6.1 Features of Primary Dakhini

Based on the collected data and interviews with the speaker, we can determine that the speaker of a primary system version of Dakhini has the following features in their speech:

- Future tense terminates in either -gaa, -gii or -ge
- The subjunctive first person singular terminates in -uuN
- In statements containing the indefinite tense, the present participle + auxiliary construction is used to make up the indefinite tense of the verb

- In the past tense, the past participle + auxiliary construction is occasionally used instead of just the past participle
- The auxiliary is used in the formation of the present continuous tense
- A complete pronoun paradigm- i.e all the pronouns in all the classes mentioned are used.
- The feminine third person plural ends in *-ain* or *-iin*.
- Correct gender classification of nouns into their respective masculine/feminine forms

## 6.2 Omissions in Primary Dakhini

Based on the data collected, the following features are definitely not present in the speech of a speaker of the primary system version of Dakhini:

- Substitution of the first person plural pronoun *ham* in place of the first person singular pronoun *maiN*
- Substitution of the masculine suffix for the feminine suffix in second person plural constructions.