

MARATHI GLOSSARY

चार गावे - Terms and Translations

PLACE NAMES

Marathi	Transliteration	English	Usage in Story
चार गावे	Char Gave	Four Villages	The region name, story title
वाडा	Wada	Manor/Estate	Zamindar's residence area
बाभूळ	Babhul	Acacia Grove	Forest edge village
तळेगाव	Talegaon	Lake Village	Main village, administrative center
वस्ती	Vasti	Settlement	Lower caste labor settlement
भट्टी	Bhatti	Kiln	Brick kiln area
कोरडे तळे	Korde Tal	Dry Lake	The cursed lake, crime scene
राखे	Rakhe	Ashes	Ash dumping ground
धुके	Dhuke	Mist/Fog	Misty area where Aarav was found
देवस्थान	Devasthan	Temple	Religious center
दवाखाना	Davakhana	Dispensary/Clinic	PHC where Leena works
वीट	Vit	Bricks	Brick storage area

TITLES AND ROLES

Marathi	Transliteration	English	Notes
साहेब	Saheb	Sir/Master	Respectful term for authority
बाई	Bai	Madam/Mrs.	

Marathi	Transliteration	English	Notes
काका	Kaka	Uncle	Respectful term for women
मावशी	Mavshi	Aunt	Respectful term for older man
दादा	Dada	Elder brother	Respectful term for older woman
सरपंच	Sarpanch	Village head	Also respectful for older male
तलाठी	Talathi	Land records officer	Elected village council leader
हवालदार	Havaldar	Constable	Maintains village land records
वैद्य	Vaidya	Traditional healer	Junior police rank
			Ayurvedic practitioner

COMMON TERMS

Marathi	Transliteration	English	Context
गमचा	Gamcha	Cloth towel	Used to cover face (Aarav's description)
चाय	Chai	Tea	Offered in hospitality
पूजा	Puja	Worship ritual	Religious ceremony
प्रसाद	Prasad	Sacred offering	Food blessed at temple
शाप	Shap	Curse	The supernatural explanation
भूत	Bhoot	Ghost	What villagers believe haunts the lake

Marathi	Transliteration	English	Context
जमीनदार	Zamindar	Landlord	Historical land-owning class
चप्पल	Chappal	Sandal	Common footwear
चौकी	Chowki	Station	Police station

PHRASES USED IN INTERVIEWS

Marathi/Hindi	English	Speaker Context
“Saheb, aap samajhte nahi”	“Sir, you don’t understand”	Deflection by villagers
“Kuch nahin dekha”	“Saw nothing”	Denial
“Bhagwan jaane”	“God knows”	Deflecting to divine
“Kya karein?”	“What to do?”	Resignation
“Bohut paisa”	“So much money”	Raghoba’s bribe
“Bacche the”	“They were children”	Grief expression
“Shraap hai”	“It is a curse”	Curse explanation
“Maa kasam”	“Mother’s oath”	Swearing truth

CULTURAL TERMS

Term	Meaning	Relevance to Story
Caste System	Social hierarchy	Vasti residents are lower caste, treated as invisible
Zamindari	Landlord system	Gadkari Saheb’s family were hereditary landlords
Load Shedding	Scheduled power cuts	Creates darkness, isolation
Panchayat	Village council	Local governance system
Taluka	Administrative division	Larger than village, smaller than district
Gram Sevak	Village officer	Government representative
Anganwadi	Child care center	Basic rural child services

RELIGIOUS/SUPERNATURAL TERMS

Term	Meaning	Usage
Devi	Goddess	Temple deity
Mantra	Sacred chant	Used in rituals
Aarti	Worship with flame	Evening temple ritual
Tulsi	Holy basil	Sacred plant in courtyards
Dayan	Witch	Accusation against women
Buri nazar	Evil eye	Blamed for misfortune
Atma	Soul/Spirit	What supposedly haunts lake
Mukti	Liberation	Release from cycle of rebirth

TIME/SEASON TERMS

Term	Meaning	Story Relevance
Varsad	Rain/Monsoon	Current season in story
Dushkal	Drought	Previous three years
Amavasya	New moon night	Considered inauspicious
Purnima	Full moon	Religious observance
Sandhya	Dusk	Time of ghost sightings
Pahaat	Dawn	When Aarav was found

FAMILY RELATIONSHIP TERMS

Term	Meaning	Example in Story
Sasur	Father-in-law	Gadkari Saheb to Nalini
Sasuma	Mother-in-law	Vasundhara to Nalini
Bhabhi	Sister-in-law	Devrao's wife to Madhav
Mama	Maternal uncle	Mahesh to More children
Nana/Nani	Maternal grandparents	-
Dada/Dadi	Paternal grandparents	Gadkari Saheb to Arjun

OCCUPATIONAL TERMS

Term	Meaning	Characters
Bhattiwala	Kiln worker	Rukmini, Dinesh

Term	Meaning	Characters
Mazdoor	Laborer	General workers
Chowkidar	Watchman	Dinesh
Naukar	Servant	Raghoba, Haribhau, Kisan
Rakhwala	Guardian	Night duty workers
Shikaari	Hunter	Ravindra (sand runner)

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Letter	Sound	Example
ಾ (aa)	Long 'a' as in 'father'	Wada (ವಾಡಾ)
ೀ (ee)	Long 'e' as in 'see'	Bhatti (ಭಟ್ಟಿ)
ೂ (oo)	Long 'u' as in 'food'	Babhul (ಬಾಭುಲ್)
ಠ (L)	Retroflex 'L'	Talegaon (ತಳೆಗಾವ)
ಣ (N)	Retroflex 'N'	-
ಟ (T)	Retroflex 'T'	Patil (ಪಾಟೀಲ)
ಡ (D)	Retroflex 'D'	Wada (ವಾಡಾ)

NOTES FOR WRITERS

- Respect forms matter** - Characters use -saheb, -bai, -kaka based on social position
- Code-switching** - Village people mix Marathi with Hindi naturally
- Indirect speech** - Rural people often speak around topics, not directly
- Proverbs** - Older characters use sayings to make points
- Silence is communication** - Pauses, looks, not answering are meaningful
- Gender roles** - Women speak differently to men than to other women
- Caste dynamics** - Lower caste speak more carefully to upper caste