

Linguistics 1 - Language Typology and Universals

Assignment 1

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Languages selected: Hindi, Telugu Gujarati, Marathi, Malayalam

Kinship terms

<i>English</i>	<i>Hindi</i>	<i>Telugu</i>	<i>Gujarati</i>	<i>Marathi</i>	<i>Malayalam</i>
Father	pita	nanna	pita	baba	appan/pidhavu
Mother	mata	amma	ma	aai	amma/madhavu
Brother	bhai	anna/thammudu	bhai	bhau	chetan/anyan
Sister	behen	akka/chelli	behen	bahin	chechi/aneethi
Grandfather	dadaji	thaatha	dada	aazoba	appachan
Grandmother	dadiji	baamma/naanamma	dadi	aaji	ammachi

We see similar sounding terms between Hindi and Gujarati. Telugu, Marathi and Malayalam terms are pretty different from each other and from Hindi/Gujarati in general. The term for 'mother' is the same in Telugu and Malayalam. Marathi 'bhau' is similar to Hindi & Gujarati 'bhai', meaning brother. The term for sister is the same in Hindi and Gujarati - 'behen'. Similar case for grandfather and grandmother. The term for mother is similar in the pair Hindi and Gujarati, and in the pair Telugu and Malayalam. Note that the terms 'appachan' for grandfather and 'ammachi' for grandmother are mostly used the Christian community speaking Malayalam and the person I interviewed was one of them.

Body Parts

<i>English</i>	<i>Hindi</i>	<i>Telugu</i>	<i>Gujarati</i>	<i>Marathi</i>	<i>Malayalam</i>
Hand	haath	cheyyi	haath	haath	kayi
Foot	paer	paadam	pag	pai	kaalu
Head	sir	thala	mathu	dokha	thala

Eyes	aankh	kallu	aankh	dol`e	kannu
Nose	naak	mukku	naak	naak	mooku
Ear	kaan	chevi	kaan	kaan	chevi
Mouth	muh	moothi	modhu	toond	vaaya

There is a similarity among Hindi, Gujarati & Marathi terms and between Telugu & Malayalam terms. The term for hand i.e 'haath' is the same in Hindi, Gujarati and Marathi. Similarly, the term for nose i.e 'naak' and ear i.e 'kaan' is the same in Hindi, Gujarati and Marathi. Term for eye - 'aankh' is the same in Hindi and Gujarati. Term for 'ear' in Telugu and Malayalam is the same - 'chevi'. In all languages except Malayalam, the word for foot begins with a 'pa' sound while in Hindi, Telugu and Gujarati, the word for mouth begins with a 'ma' sound.

Color terms

<i>English</i>	<i>Hindi</i>	<i>Telugu</i>	<i>Gujarati</i>	<i>Marathi</i>	<i>Malayalam</i>
Red	laal	erra	laal	laal	chomanu
Blue	nila	neelum	vadari	neel`a	neela
Yellow	pila	pasupupachcha	piro	pivl`a	manja
Green	hara	aakupachcha	lilo	hirva	pacha
Orange	santari	narinja rangu	kesari	narangi	oranju/chomanu
White	safed	thelupu	safed	pandhra	vella
Black	kaala	nalupu	karo	kar`a	kartha

Some similarities can be seen between Hindi and Gujarati. The term for red, 'laal' is the same in Hindi, Gujarati and Marathi. Apart from Gujarati, all other languages have a word with the sound 'nila' in it for the color blue. Yellow has term starting with a 'pi' sound in Hindi, Gujarati and Marathi. The term for 'black' starts with the 'ka' sound in all languages except Telugu. White has the same term in Hindi and Gujarati - 'safed'. Note that Telugu speakers have two variants of 'pachcha' for the colors yellow and green, corresponding to ripe and unripe respectively. Malayalam uses the term 'pacha' for green. The color orange has varied names in the chosen languages, Marathi's 'narangi' and Telugu's 'narinja rangu' (color of orange, the fruit) sounding somewhat similar.

Numerals

<i>English</i>	<i>Hindi</i>	<i>Telugu</i>	<i>Gujarati</i>	<i>Marathi</i>	<i>Malayalam</i>
One	ek	okati	ek	ek	onnu
Two	do	rendu	bae	don	randu
Three	teen	moodu	tran	teen	moonu
Four	chaar	naalugu	chaar	chaar	naalu
Five	paanch	eidu	paanch	paats	anju
Six	che:	aaru	cho:	saha	aaru
Seven	saat	eydu	saat	saat	ezhu
Eight	aath	enimidi	aath	aath	ettu
Nine	nou	thommidi	nav	nau	ombadhu
Ten	das	padi	das	daha	pathu
Twenty	bis	iravai	vees	vees	iravadhu
Fifty	pachas	yaabbai	pachas	pannas	ambadhu
Hundred	sou	vanda	sou	shambhar	nooru

Hindi, Gujarati and Marathi have extremely similar numeral terms. There is some similarity between terms in Malayalam and Telugu as well. Telugu and Malayalam terms for twenty both begin with 'irava', while their terms for four, both being with 'naalu', and their terms for six i.e 'aaru' being exactly the same. The terms for one, two, and three also begin with the same sound, 'o', 'ra', 'moo', respectively in Telugu and Malayalam. For Hindi, Gujarati and Marathi, the terms for all the numerals begin with the same sound with the exception of two (starts with 'do' in Hindi and Marathi and is 'bae' in Gujarati), six (starts with 'cha' in Hindi and Gujarati but with 'sa' in Marathi) and hundred ('sou' in Hindi and Gujarati while 'shambar' in Marathi).

Domestic Animals

<i>English</i>	<i>Hindi</i>	<i>Telugu</i>	<i>Gujarati</i>	<i>Marathi</i>	<i>Malayalam</i>
Dog	kutta	kukka	kutru	kutra	patti
Cat	billi	pilli	billi	manzar	poocha
Horse	ghora	gurram	ghoro	ghora	kudhira

Cow	gaye	aavu	gaye	gaye	pashu
Goat	bakra	meka	bakri	bakri	aadu
Sheep	bher	gorre	ghetu	mendhi	aadu
Pig	suwar	pandi	dukkar	dukkar	panni

Minor similarities can be seen among names of domestic animals in Hindi, Marathi and Gujarati. In some cases, the Telugu term is also similar to the ones in Hindi while Malayalam stands out having really different sounding terminology. The term for dog starts with 'ku' in all the chosen languages apart from Malayalam. The term for cat in Hindi, Telugu, Gujarati ends in 'illi'. The first sound 'b' in Hindi and Gujarati and 'p' in Telugu have only a difference in voicing. The term for horse is very similar in Hindi, Gujarati and Marathi, all starting with 'ghor'. The term for cow - 'gaye' is exactly the same in Hindi, Gujarati and Marathi. Goat translates to 'bakri' / 'bakra' in Hindi, Gujarati and Marathi. The term for pig is the same in Gujarati and Marathi - 'dukkar'. In Malayalam, the term for goat and sheep is the same - 'aadu'.