CL2.203 Language and Society
Final Project Report - Part 1

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Contents

Introduction

Deccani (also known as Deccani Urdu and Deccani Hindi) or Dakni, Dakhni, Dakhini, Dakkhani and Dakkani (dekanī or dakhanī), is a variety of Hindustani spoken in the Deccan region of India. Commonly associated with Urdu, the historical dialect sparked the development of Urdu literature during the late-Mughal period, and was a predecessor to and later influenced modern standard Hindi. This paper will discuss the results of study regarding the sociolinguistic norms of the present time in hyderabad. This paper will discuss linguistic variables and social norms of Hyderabadi Hindi.

Hypothesis

1. Conscious Speech The Hyderabadi Hindi speakers would shift to standard Hindi when there is a trigger for them to switch or would at least show some linguistic variables of standard Hindi.

2. Identity assertion Hyderabadi Hindi speakers don't identify themselves as that language speaker they mostly associate themselves with either Hindi or Urdu and don't have a sense of identity and solidarity due to this language as they have for Telangana Telugu.

Data Collection

A survey was conducted for 15-20 people local Hyderabadi people who the Hyderabadi Hindi variety and it was a very detailed talk rather than a survey. This survey helped us in identifying various linguistic variables of Hyderabadi Hindi.

Methodology

- The subjects were engaged in small talk by a Hyderabadi Hindi speaker who was helping us out with the survey.

- The subjects were engaged in popular topics and recent events like Cricket and the World Cup.

- Then they were asked the questions in between so the speech was unconscious speech.

- For conscious speech, they were prompted in between to provide a trigger to kick in conscious speech.

Precautions Taken

1. The subjects were never told about the topic of the survey they were just asked random questions about cricket, politics, and their culture. So long talks with people helped us gather the linguistic variables in Hyderabadi Hindi in comparison to standard Hindi.

2. They were never told to speak in any variety so all the answers were unconscious.

3. During this survey We took a Hyderabadi Hindi Speaker with us who was doing most of the talking, this was also to ensure unconscious speech.

4. We took their personal information after their interview was finished. So they never knew it was a survey and therefore they acted more naturally.

Linguistics Variables

Linguistic Variables were collected during the talk with Hyderabadi Hindi speakers.

Ending the Sentence

Hyderabadi Hindi speakers tend to use /mIyA/ or /bayA/ after every phrase while talking to a male listener and /medama/ for females.

No copula

Hyderabadi Hindi does not have copula unlike Hindi /hE/ , /hUn/. This feature(No copula) is also seen in Telegu. Eg..
Standard:- *vah pAnI pIne gayA hE.*
Hyderabadi:- *vah pAni pEne gayA, bayA.*

It's not like that *hE* is not there in their vocabulary but it is not used as a copula. they use *hE* when it is used to show existence
Eg..
Standard:- *AkAS mE pakSI hE.*
Hyderabadi:-*AkAS mE pakSI hE.*

Few Inflections Compared to Hindi

Many inflections/variants Present in Standard Hindi are not used in Hyderabadi Hindi and the selected few inflections/variants are used everywhere. Ex. the variants of /hE/ in standard Hindi are /hE/ and /hUM/ but in Hyderabadi Hindi, only /hai/ is used.

The tense inflection of past, future, and present; inflection based on respect; inflections based on first person, second person, and third person are also not present rather only a few forms are used in many different places.
Eg.
Standard Hindi:

   a. *mErA xosta Kelane jAegA.* (singular+3rd person +future+respect level 1/2)

   b. *mere xosta Kelane jAeMge.* (plural+3rd person +future+respect level 1/2)

   c. *mere pApA Gara jAeMge.* (singular+3rd person +future+respect level 3)

   d. *mEM kala Kelane jAUMgA.* (singular+1st person +future)

Hyderabadi Hindi: It only has 2 varities *jAtA* and jAte

   a. *mErA xosta Kelane jAtA.*

   b. *mere xosta Kelane jAte.*

   c. *mere pApA Gara jAte.*

   d. *mEM kala Kelane jAtA.*

Use of /ic/

They use /ic/ as an inflection after a verb to show emphasis.
Eg.
Standard:- *kAma hI kara rahA hUM bAI.*
Hyderabadi:- *kAmic kara rahA miyA.*

Hypercorrection Pluralification

Different rules of pluralification are used.
Eg.
Standard:- *bAteM , kitAbeM*
Hyderabadi:- *bAtAM , kitAbAM*

Hyderabadi has only one plural marker /AM/ which is used to mark plurality of all words. But the above rule of using /AM/ is used hypercorrectly, as it is used in words where the plural does not exist in standard Hindi like
Eg. *kAm - kAmA*.

Use of /honA/

Use of /honA/ instead of /cAhiye/
Eg
Standard Hindi :- *wumhe KAnA cAhiye ?*
Hyderabadi :- *wumko KAnA honA?*

Borrowing of Lexicon

- *hamanA, wumanA — hameM, wumeM —* (we, you)

- *mereku, wereku — muJe, tuJe —* (me, you)

    These are some words in Urdu which have got influenced by Telugu and followed by *ku, ki*, andre. These words are used as prepositions in Telugu to address the people.

- *apan*(We)— *ApNa* This seems to coming from Marathi origin

- *hallU*(slow) — *haIYU* This also seems to coming from Marathi origin

- *nakO*(No) — *nakO* This is Marathi word.

Experiment for Hypothesis 1

Hypothesis

Conscious Speech   The Hyderabadi Hindi speakers would shift to standard Hindi when there is a trigger for them to switch or would at least show some linguistic variables of standard Hindi.

Survey Method

- We talked to diverse age and occupation groups of Hyderabad who speak Hyderabadi Hindi and We talked to them about many things to unconsciously get the linguistic variable, We had the help of a Hyderabadi Hindi speaker friend who was doing most of the talking.

- We then provided a trigger for them to switch, during the talk between Hyderabadi Hindi speakers a North Indian Standard Hindi speaker stepped into the talk and asks the subject to repeat as he can't understand, every 2 to 3 sentences the north Indian speaker acts as if he can't understand prompting the subject to repeat what he said. This process was done to capture the differences between conscious and unconscious speech.

Observation

(a) Overall Use of Conscious Speech Of Standard Hindi

(b) Student's Use of Conscious Speech in Standard Hindi

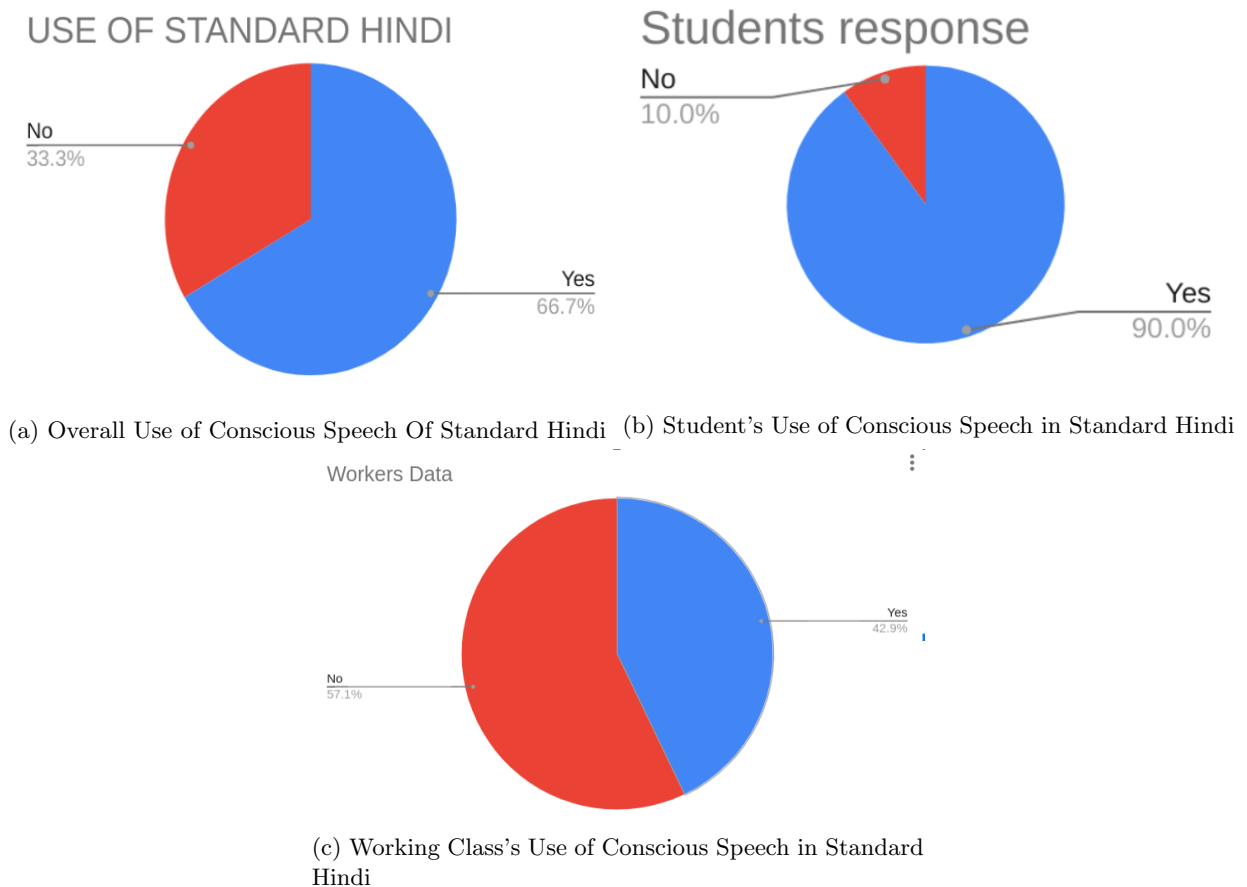(c) Working Class's Use of Conscious Speech in Standard Hindi

Figure 1: Use of Hindi during Conscious Speech Designation-wise

The observations were slightly different from what we hypothesized that the Hyderabadi Hindi Speakers would shift to Standard Hindi when a trigger is provided. Still, only 66% (Fig 1a.) of people did that and out of which only 40% could speak proficiently. The other 33% just tried to repeat the same sentence slowly and clearly without much change to their speech.

We further analyzed them based on their occupation and found that 62%(Fig 1b) of working-class people either could not speak standard Hindi or chose not to even after providing a trigger and were aged between 30-50 years and we also came across the observation that most of the subjects who switched to standard Hindi easily and proficiently were Students. 90%(Fig 1c.) of students switched to Standard Hindi when provided a trigger.

Characteristics of Conscious Speech

- Slow and clear pronunciation of words

- Use of Standard Hindi variables like

    Use of copula.

    Pronunciations were more like Standard Hindi.

    Specific Hyderabadi Hindi words were used less like *hallU*, *nakO*, etc..

Interpretation

We infer from the above results that when we talked to university Students they used standard Hindi in that situation but the vendors like auto drivers, guards, etc just said the same thing slowly for us to understand and no significant change was there in the actual language.

Experiment for Hypothesis 2

Hypothesis

Hyderabadi Hindi speakers don't identify themselves as that language speaker they mostly associate themselves with either Hindi or Urdu and don't have a sense of Identity and solidarity due to this language as they have for Telangana Telugu.

Study Method

- We tried to know that do people assert their identity with Hyderabadi Hindi. We asked them the question that

  Do you want an education in schools to be in Hyderabadi Hindi?

  Do you want it to be recognized by the Government?

- We gave reference to Telangana Telugu and how it got its respect.

- Then a North Indian speaker tried to Speak in Hyderabadi Hindi accent in a mocking tone. This was done to record the reaction of the Subject

Observations

We asked following questions.

Do you want an education in schools to be in Hyderabadi Hindi?
The answers were very mixed 55% of people replied that(Fig 2.) they are fine with both Hyderabadi Hindi used as the language of instruction or not being used as a mode of instruction. 27% replied yes they would like it as the language of instruction. 16% replied with "NO" that it's just a street language and not suitable for education.
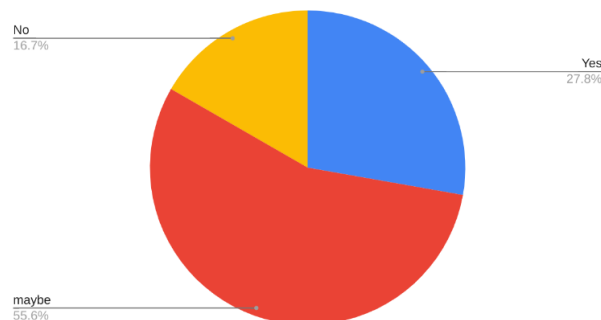

Figure 2: Graph representing percentage of people wanting Hyderabadi Hindi as medium of education.

Do you want it to be recognized by the government, like Telangana Telugu?
It was seen(Fig 3.) that 50% of people were fine with either decision of it being recognized or not being recognized 33% of people wanted it to be recognized 16% people did not want it recognized classifying it as a street language.
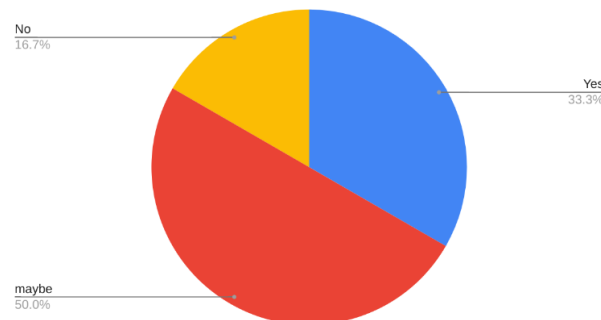

Figure 3: Graph representing percentage of people wanting Hyderabadi Hindi recognized like Telangana Telegu.

North Indian Influence

(Fig 4.)The North Indian speaker tried to speak Hyderabadi Hindi and also tried it in a mocking way and asked them if he was speaking properly, most of the people were very offended and asked him to speak in his "normal Hindi" rather than using the wrong Hyderabadi Hindi.

72.2% of people responded with 'NO' that the North Indian speaker was not speaking properly and wanted the speaker to stop speaking, also 75% of subjects were observed to change their tone to a more impolite tone while talking to the north Indian speaker.
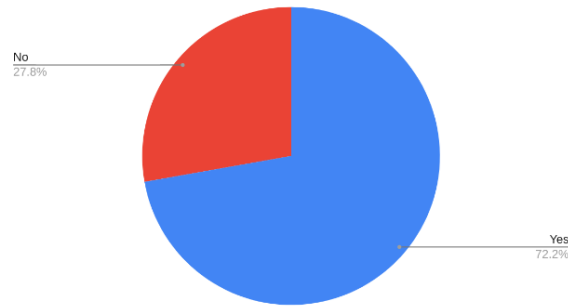

Figure 4: Graph representing percentage of people thinking that North Indians Speak wrong Hyderabadi Hindi.

Interpretation

We infer from the observations that the Hyderabadi people have a sense of solidarity among the Hyderabadi Hindi speakers and they have a sense of identity as most of them were offended by the wrong use of their language but they don't want to assert their identity or claim the identity as most of them were not bothered by the recognition of Hyderabadi Hindi by the government.

Discussion

Regarding the first experiment it can be possible that the people who talked a second time in Dakhini Hindi, may not have studied Hindi as a language. For the people that spoke Standard Hindi second time may have studied Hindi as a language or may have good exposure with Northern Hindi (which is more closer to Standard Hindi). Also they most of them did understand the standard Hindi well because of the exposure to standard Hindi, due to government policies and widespread popularity of Bollywood. We can also say that Hyderabadi Hindi is an example of convergence between Marathi, Hindi, Urdu, Telegu. From the linguistic features mentioned in this paper.

Regarding the second experiment we can say that Hyderabadi Hindi speakers don't show that they belong to Hyderabadi Hindi speech community like they belong to Telegu. By the data gathered by interviewing people it is fairly visible that they have a sense of identity as most of them were offended by the wrong use of their language but they don't want to assert their identity or claim the identity as most of them were not bothered by the recognition of Hyderabadi Hindi by the government.

Conclusion

We can pin-point many linguistic variable by talking to people who speak Hyderabadi Hindi and the same are mentioned in this paper. The Hyderabadi Hindi speakers did shift to standard Hindi when there is a trigger for them to switch or did at least show some linguistic variables of standard Hindi. Unless they don't know Standard Hindi or North Indian Hindi(closer to Standard Hindi).

Hyderabadi Hindi speaking people have some kind of solidarity and attachment with their language. They fail to show it completely.Hyderabadi Hindi speakers don't identify themselves as that language speaker they mostly associate themselves with either Hindi or Urdu and don't have a sense of identity and solidarity due to this language as they have for Telangana Telugu.

References

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