

CL2.203 Language and Society

Final Project Report -2 - Part 2

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1 Introduction

Every year thousands of North Indian Standard Hindi speakers move to Hyderabad for education purpose , better jobs and overall greener pastures. There are many social stereotypes and perception that they have regarding the hyderabadi hindi accent. This paper discussions North Indian's perception regarding Hyderabad Hindi. What they think about Hyderabad Hindi. Do they consider it as dialect or just label it as 'Wrong' Hindi

2 Hypothesis

Hyderabad Hindi is wrong Hindi according North Indian Hindi speakers: The North Indian Hindi Speakers who speak a variety closer to standard Hindi perceive the Hyderabad accent as incompetent and have a perception that speakers speaking this accent are not actually proficient in it.

Education of Hindi by Hyderabad Hindi Speakers: The North Indian Hindi Speakers who speak a variety closer to standard Hindi feel that most Hyderabad Hindi speakers didn't study Hindi in their schools.

3 Data Collection

3.1 Precautions

- a. The subjects were not told anything about the survey, where the accent is from and who is the speaker.
- b. They were carefully engaged in small talk first and then asked questions without letting them know that it is a survey.
- c. After they gave answers it was revealed that this is being done for a survey and their consent was taken before collecting their responses, email address (many subjects were okay with giving the survey but didnt wanted there name so there email was not stored).
- d. Also to avoid observers paradox we often called one of their friends to take a survey so it is not suspicious.

3.2 Methodology

- To find if the following hypothesis is correct or not a precise survey was conducted in with around 50 -60 people.
- We Made the Subjects listen to an Audio file with a Hyderabad Hindi accent but the speaker was not revealed and also it was not revealed what accent this is.
- The group of people were all students with different years of exposure to hyderabadi Hindi.

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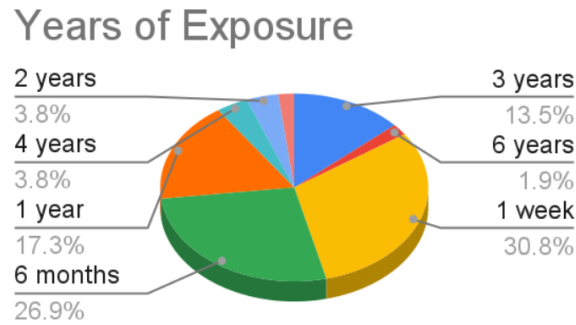


Figure 1: Chart representing the years of exposure of Hyderabad Hindi

The following Questions were asked:

Did you understand properly what was being said?

This was asked so as to know if the subject is proficient in Hindi and if Hyderabad Hindi is mutually intelligible to standard Hindi.

Has the speaker at any point in time studied the Hindi Language in his formal education?

This Question Was asked to check whether the hypothesis that “The North Indian Hindi Speakers who speak a variety closer to standard Hindi feel that most Hyderabad Hindi speakers didn’t study Hindi in their schools.” is true or not.

Is the speaker competent in the language He is speaking.

This question was asked so to check if the hypothesis “The North Indian Hindi Speakers who speak a variety closer to standard Hindi perceive the Hyderabad accent as incompetent and have a perception that speakers speaking this accent are actually proficient in it.” is correct or not.

3.3 Data Tabulation and Interpretation

So we analysed answers to every question

Did you understand properly what was being said?

Most speakers 96% replied with yes and it was also observed that people of Hyderabad understand the standard Hindi variety as well. So the Hyderabad Hindi is mutually intelligible with standard Hindi. Also the only speaker who could not understand it properly was not proficient in his hindi as his mother tongue is Bengali

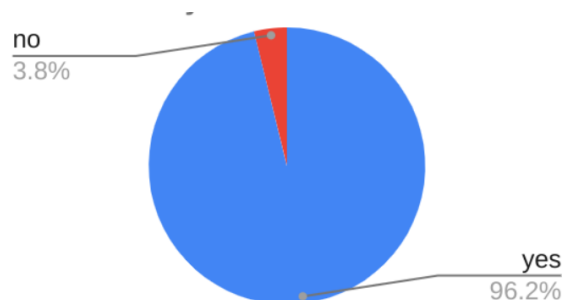


Figure 2: Chart representing statistics of people who understood the audio.

Has the speaker at any point in time studied the Hindi Language in his formal education?

We received mixed results for this question where 53% percent of people said yes and others said no. We also analyzed The result of this question for people with different years of exposure and also found mixed responses.

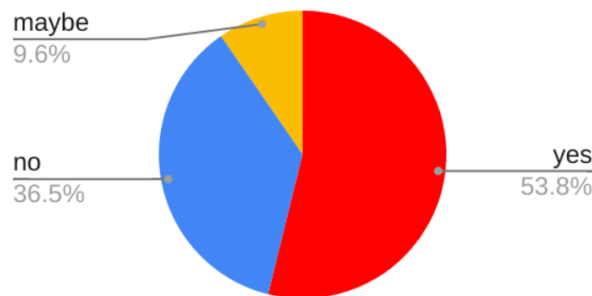


Figure 3: Chart representing statistics of people estimating speaker's education in Hindi.

We tried to analyse it according to years of exposure but there was no such pattern observed. We collected the reason for the answers and the mostly we received 2 answers

1. Subjects who replied with Yes, that they think that "the hyderabad speakers have studied Hindi in school because how else would they learn."
2. Subjects who replied with No, mostly gave the reason that "if hyderabad Hindi speakers would have studied Hindi in school they would have learnt to speak it properly."

Is the speaker proficient in the Language He is speaking?

In this question, it was hypothesized that most north Indian speakers would say NO as they perceive the dialect to be incompetent and Hyderabad people to be not proficient in the their language but the observation was not implying this hypothesis is correct .

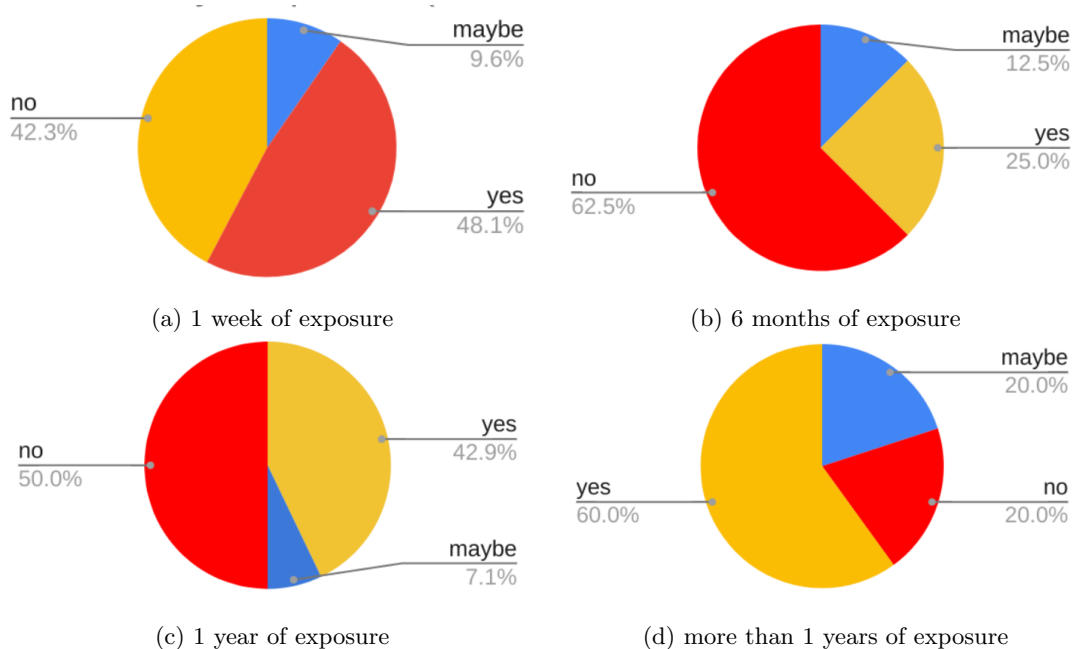


Figure 4: Statistics of answers to question according to years of exposure.

Is the speaker speaking his mother tongue?

In this question, we didn't hypothesized anything as we were not sure but the results were quite surprising as more than 80 60% people who said that the people speaking hyderabadi hindi are proficient in it said that its not their

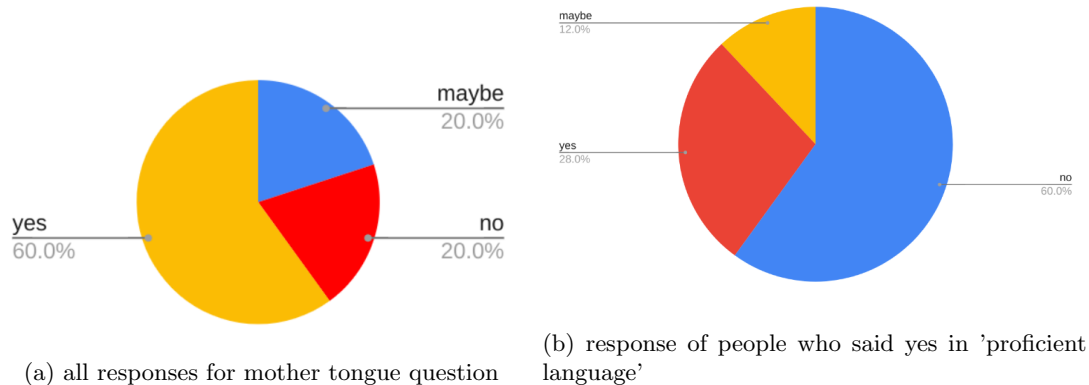


Figure 5

mother tongue . We also tried to analyze by looking at the time of exposure but there was no pattern recognised

4 Discussion

We observed that 96% people understood what was being said. We speculate that hyderabadi Hindi is mutually intelligible with Standard Hindi. We infer from the Observation that perception about the hyderabadi hindi accent that its speakers are not proficient enough decreases with the increase in time of exposure with hyderabadi Hindi .

We infer this is due to 2 reasons:-

1. Due to the realization that many people speak this accent throughout the day and with everyone and not just north Indian speakers. North indian speakers realize that they have been speaking this variety from childhood and are very proficient and this realization can only come after a significant amount of time.
2. Convergence of standard Hindi and Hyderabad Hindi which leads to changes in the language of the north Indian Hindi speakers and unconsciously their own hindi is converging to become like hyderabadi Hindi so they dont see the hyderabadi hindi as not proficient

For the question 'Has the speaker at any point in time studied the Hindi Language in his formal education?'. We infer from the observations that the responses were mixed as the subjects were not able to understand the question properly or how to interpret it.

Many Subjects were asked about the reason they think so Many of them who answered "YES" in the answer said that the reason they think the Hyderabad Hindi speakers must have studied Hindi Subject in school was how another way could they learn Hindi as the mother tongue of most is people is Telugu. This also gives rise to a theory that many North Indian Hindi speakers have stereotypes and presumptions which may be wrong .

The Subjects who answered 'NO' gave the reason that " if hyderabadi Hindi speakers would have studied Hindi in school they would speak it correctly like the standard Hindi , but they picked it up from the street so they didnt study it in school "

For the question 'is the speaker speaking his mother tongue.' The observation shows how .. people changed ... even though many of them believed that hyderabadi Hindi speakers are proficient , we infer that this is due to an presumption that everyone in Hyderabad knows and speaks Telugu well and it is their mother tongue , whereas its not actually correct many hyderabadi Hindi speakers have hyderabadi Hindi as mother tongue , though most people in hyderabadi know Telugu but it being mother tongue of every hyderabadi person is a stereotype .

5 Conclusion

The North Indian Hindi Speakers who speak a variety closer to standard Hindi perceive the Hyderabad accent as incompetent and have a perception that speakers speaking this accent are not actually proficient in it. They feel that most Hyderabad Hindi speakers didn't study Hindi in their schools.

6 References

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