

CLG411 Assignment 1

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20171076

Languages Chosen:

Telugu
Kannada
Tamil
Punjabi
Khasi

For all languages except Khasi, translation was done by Google Translate, with verification by a native speaker of the language.

Data for khasi was taken from an English-Khasi dictionary.

<https://glosbe.com/en/kha>

<https://archive.org/details/in.ernet.dli.2015.464872/page/n15>

Kinship terms

English	Telugu	Tamil	Kannada	Punjabi	Khasi
Father	Taṇḍri	Tantai	Tande/Appa	Pitā	kpa
Mother	talli	tāy	tāyi/Amma	mām	kmie
Brother	anna/thammudu	cakōtarāṇ	sahōdara(Older : Anna Younger: tamma)	bharā	bah
Sister	akka/chelli	cakōtari	sahōdari(Older: Akka Younger;Tangi)	bhaiṇa	para
Father-in-law	māmagāru	māmaṇār	māva	sahurā	kthaw-kurim
Mother-in-law	attayya	māmiyār	atte	sasa	kiaw-kurim
Grandfather	tāta	pāṭṭaṇ	ajja	dādā	kparad
Grandmother	am'mam'ma/nannamma	pāṭṭi	ajji	dādī	kmierad

Similarities

This example demonstrates clearly the gap between the Indo-Aryan and Dravidian language families. The Dravidian languages are very similar, and the differences amongst them make for a better study, as we shall do later.

Among the not as obvious are similarities between English and Punjabi. While it makes sense given the (far removed) similar origin, it's one worth noting:

1. *Father* and *Pitā* (For clarity consider German's *pater*)
2. *Mother* and *mān*
3. *Brother* and *bharā* (Not as clear a comparison, when considering the <sister> terms after)

As we move out of the familiar English relations, the diversity in Punjabi's kinship terms (as with other Indian languages) begins to emerge. Throughout all examples, one notices the strong resemblance of Punjabi to Hindi - all the terms are almost identical, *bharā* (vs Hindi's *bhaiya*) being probably the most changed term.

There's also:

1. "Grandfather" in Telugu is *tāta*, which sounds very similar to Punjabi and *dādā*.

Differences

The differences between Telugu, Tamil, and Kannada are rather interesting to note. While they are largely similar, even among similar terms there are minor differences:

1. Kannada's 'sa' vs Tamil's 'ca' (*cakōtara* vs *sahōdara*, *cakōtari* vs *sahōdari*)
2. "Mother": *talli* (Telugu) vs *tāy* (Tamil) vs *tāyi* (Kannada)
3. "Father": *Tandri* (Telugu) vs *Tantai* (Tamil) vs *Tande* (Kannada)
4. Tamil uses *māmiyār* for Mother-in-law, unlike Telugu and Kannada's *attaya* and *ajja*
5. All three Dravidian languages have very different terms for "Grandfather" and "Grandmother"
6. We can use points 2 and 3 to comment on suffix usage in the languages, but until further evidence presents itself, no conclusions will be drawn.

Body Parts

English	Telugu	Tamil	Kannada	Punjabi	Khasi
Head	tala	Talaimai	Tale	Mukhī	khlieh
Hand	cheyyi	kai	kai	hatha	kti
Back	nadumu	mīṇṭum	bennu	vāpasa	ing-dong
Legs	kāḷḷu	kāl	kālu	latān	kjat
Foot	kallu	pādam	pāda	paira	kjat
Arm	bhujam	kai	tōḷu	bānha	kti

Similarities

Again, the similarities in the Dravidian Languages present themselves. But also

1. Punjabi, Kannada, Tamil have similar names: paira, pāda, pādam
2. Khasi might have some relation to Kannada, Telugu, and Tamil when it comes to the word for “legs” - they all start with ‘k’. Given the rest of the words, however, it’s unlikely.

Differences

First of all, we observe how body parts are given different terms in most languages. Also to be noted:

1. Tamil uses *kai* for both “hand” and “arm”
2. Khasi uses:
 - a. *Kjat* for both “legs” and “foot”
 - b. *Kti* for “arm” and “hand”

, implying these languages do not have a word for distinguishing between the body parts.

Colour Terms

English	Telugu	Tamil	Kannada	Punjabi	Khasi
Purple	Ūdā	Ūtā	Nēraḷe	Jāmanī	saw-jngem
Violet	Ūdā	Ūtā	nēraḷe	wāilēṭa	jumi-iang
Blue	neelam	neelam	nīli	nīlā	jyrngam
Green	Aaku paccha	pachai	hasiru	harā	jyrngam-phlang
Yellow	pasupu	mañcaḷ	haḷadi	pīlā	stem
Orange	aarenja	ārañcu	kittaḷe	satarā	soh-niamtra
Red	erra	sivappu	kempu	lāla	saw

Similarities

1. Telugu and Tamil have matching terms for purple, violet, and blue
2. “Neel” is a term for blue in all languages except Khasi
3. At least Punjabi and Telugu derive their names for the colour “orange” from the fruit orange - much like english

Differences

1. Purple and violet have the same color terms in kannada, telugu, tamil. English has more representation in this, accordingly.
 2. Khasi uses “jyrngam” for blue, unlike everything else. It also combines color terms to get new colors, corresponding to actual color mixtures.
 3. All 6 languages have different terms for red.
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Numerals

English	Telugu	Tamil	Kannada	Punjabi	Khasi
Zero	Jīrō	Pūjyam	Śūn'ya	Zīrō	jingkhein
One	oka	ondru	ondu	ika	uwei
Two	reṇḍu	iraṇṭu	eraḍu	dō	ar
Three	mūḍu	mūṇṇu	mūru	tina	lai
Four	nālugu	nāṇku	nālku	cāra	saw
Five	aidu	aintu	aidu	paja	san
Six	āru	āru	āru	chē	hynriew
Seven	ēḍu	ēḷu	ēḷu	sata	hynniew
Eight	enimidi	eṭṭu	eṇṭu	aṭha	phra
Nine	tom'midi	oṇpatu	ombattu	nau	khyndai
Sixty Nine	aravai tom'midi	aṇupattu oṇpatu	aravattombattu	saṭha nau	-
Forty Two	nalabhai reṇḍu	nāṇpatti iraṇṭu	nalavattu eraḍu	biāālī	-
One hundred and forty	nūṭa nalabhai	nūṇṇu nāṇpatu	nūra nalavattu	ika sau cālī	-
Twenty Seven	iravai ēḍu	irupatti ēḷu	ippattēḷu	satā'ī	-

Similarities

1. Telugu - Tamil - Kannada are all very, very similar. Differences are minor and related to minor morphological changes. Even syntactic structure when putting numbers together to make bigger numbers is similar. Native speaker of Tamil points out, however, that things may change with numbers in the 90s.

Differences

1. Dravidian Languages != Punjabi != Khasi
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Domestic Animals

English	Telugu	Tamil	Kannada	Punjabi	Khasi
Dog	Kukka	Nāy	Nāyi	Kutā	ksew
Cat	pilli	pūnai	bekku	biṛ	miaw
Donkey	gāḍida	kaḷutai	katte	khōtā	kada
Goat	mēka	āṭu	aaDu	bakarī	blang
Cow	āvu	māṭu	dana	ga.	masi
Chicken	kodi	kozhi	koLi	Muragē dā mīṭa	Khun syiar

Similarities

1. Dog: Telugu and Punjabi both use Kukka/Kuta
2. Cat: Again, Telugu and Punjabi have pilli/billi

Differences

1. “Chicken”: (Telugu) *koḍi* (Tamil) *ko~~z~~hi* (Kannada) *ko~~L~~i*
 2. “Cow” has a different **local** term in every language for the speakers data was collected from. They confirmed the existence of similar terms to other languages, possibly originating from common terms.
 3. For dog, Telugu uses “kukka” unlike Tamil and Kannada’s Nay/Nayi.
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In general, across the board the dravidian languages tend to be very similar, where Telugu has the most variance and similarity to the Indo-Aryan punjai - possibly due to intermixing, or common roots, or borrowing.

Sanskrit roots/borrowing are possibly a reason for similarity of languages across the families. For instance, Telugu’s Kukka, which may be from the Sanskrit Kukkura. This would also explain similarity to the Hindi “kutta”, or bengali “kukur”, or Punkabi “Kuta”.

Khasi is completely unrelated to all four others in every way imaginable, and there is but one recorded case of a “common sounding” word - it may be just coincidence.