

Phonological System of Odia Language

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ABSTRACT : Phonology is the study of sound patterns of a language. It is known as the study of mental representation of contrastive sound units. In other words the study of how speech sounds form themselves to contribute in higher forms and functions in languages. Odia is spoken by nearly thirty five million people as mother tongue in Odisha and nearly half figure stated here also speak this language as their other tongue. Odia is an Eastern Indo-Aryan language and belongs to Indo-Aryan language family. From the semantic point of view Odia words can be separated into functional word, grammatical word, lexical word, contains word, compositional word, lexicalized word, onomatopoeic word etc.

KEYWORDS – Language, Odia, Speech, vowels, consonant, phonology, letter, verbal communication, monosyllable, linguistic aspects, Derivational Morphology, nouns, pronouns and adjectives

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I. INTRODUCTION:

A phonological study refers to the list of segments in a specific language and their arrangement in creating meaning for that language. Odia phonological system may be explained from the following points of view: a. Segmental phonology b. Supra segmental phonology

Supra segmental phoneme: Out of thirty seven segmental phonemes six vowels and thirty one consonants are there in the language. Nasalization is the only supra segmental phoneme observed in Odia which is attached with all the vowels. Six vowels are present in Odia. They are described in this presentation as A, a, i, u, e and o. it is significant to point out that phonemically speaking there is no difference between long and short vowels in the verbal communication. The letters of Odia conventionally have been arranged into five groups with no reference to basic similarities shape. We may state the groups as – spikes, hooks, handles, hoops and hatracks for schooling purpose. However, they have been found helpful for the analysis of phonology. Pedagogically, Here given some more discussions in this respect, which helps us to teach scripts by giving certain clues to the student. The phonological patterns of any language remind us two important explanations. One is the Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics (1971) and another in language (1923). Linguists find that a list of phonemes is not enough to give a apparent picture of the pattern of a language. A list of combinations of the phonemes is to be stated. The combinations of phonemes may be explained as “word-initial” and “word final” clusters and they can be stated in terms of onsets, peaks and codas of syllables – for instance /pot/, /p/ is the onset, /o/ is the peak and /t/ is the coda. The vowel in a syllable is for all the time stated as the peak, the consonant previous to the vowel is the onset and the consonant after the vowel is coda. When we observe the phonological system of Odia language, we see when “n” is the initial member in a consonant cluster other than the palatal series it is dental – dantA(tooth), when ‘n’ occurs before c, ch, j, jh it has a small palatal quality – kAnca (raw), sAnjA (evening). When N is the initial member in a consonant bunch it is a retroflex nasal and not a flap- ANTA (waist) ANDA (egg). D has a retroflex wave allophone R in inter vocalic and concluding positions. In most no initial places that in pronounced as R. This is alike the pronunciation of tt in some varieties of English. All vowels in Odia are nasalized. Vowels. The vowel 'O' occurs lastly simply in vocatives. In Odia, L, R, Rh, N never occur at first. D, Dh in medial and last positions became R, Rh. W occurs hardly ever and in loan words, clusters alone. R and Rh are variants of D, Dh in Odia, though pressure is not phonemic in Odia yet it plays a significant role in sorting out one word from another in a language chain. Odia follows a specific stress model by stressing the last but one syllable with some exclusion towards ending in /a/ vowel. The vowels in monosyllable are somewhat longer in length than in other positions. Consequently, the vowel is dAs in ten when pronounced in separation is to some extent longer than the vowel in the same word pronounced gradually with a final vowel dAsA. There is no shortage of comparative work in linguistics comparing dissimilar in linguistic aspects for pedagogical purposes. Still, there is only a few amount of research available while we think about the case of Odia language. We find the polite and honorific words in Odia are a kind of courtesy alternate, bARA, mAjhiA and sanAare the three terms representing elder, middle and youngest respectively. For instance

– bARA bhai(elder brother), bARA bohu (elder daughter-in-law), mAjhiA bhai (middle brother), mAjhia bhAuNi (middle sister), mAjhia bahu (middle daughter in law) , sanA bhai (younger brother),sanA bhAuNi (younger sister) and so forth .Likewise even if proper names are usually non-connotative, Odia names have some meanings. For example male names like Bijaya, Ananda, Basanta connote victory, delight and spring respectively. Similarly female names like Sulochana, Asha, Usha mean – the one with gorgeous eyes, hope and dawn respectively. The nicknames carry on remaining along with the proper names all over the life of a person. The days of a week are named according to the names of planets. Two dissimilar calendars are solar and the other lunar are widespread in India. Following the moon, a month consists of two pAkhyA (fortnight), sukLA pAkhyA (bright fortnight) and Krushna pakhyaA (dark fortnight). Three seasons are generally known in the colloquial idiom in Odisha, GrishmA or khArA (summer), shitA (winter), bArshA (rainy). All such examples are based on articulation. These examples show us the individuality of phonological model of Odia language. The process of evolution of language is reflected in the biological time table that is found in the growth of a child's linguistic capability. Linguists say, the child does not wake up one morning with a fully shaped language in his brain. It is developed by stages, each stage more strongly approximating to the language of the adults with him. These stages are very alike irrespective of whether the child is acquiring Odia, Spanish, Hindi or Telugu. All children obtain the systems, pattern or rules of the language of their community speech in stages of rising complexity. From the semantic angle Odia words can be divided into Functional word, Grammatical word, Lexical word, Content word, Compositional word, Lexicalized word, Onomatopoeic word etc. Derivational Morphology is responsible for formation of Odia language. Lexicon may be analyzed under the following points..

Morphological Derivative Form:

i. Compound

ii. Incorporation etc.

As structure Phonology here plays a dynamic role. Sound systems play a vital role for structure of Lexical words. Odia language, the sixth classical language of India, is exclusive in its sound pattern. The phonological model of Odia language is reasonably attractive than Bengali, Assamese, Maithili.

The articulation and configuration of sounds in Odia language is really amazing. Western scholars like G.H. Grierson in his book 'Linguistic survey of India, Volume V, Part II (1803 -1923)'. John Beams in his work – 'A Comparative Grammar' (1970)' discussed briefly the phonological systems of Odia language. In some other intellectual publications like Souton's 'Introductory Grammar of the Odia Language' (1831)', A.N.Youngs 'The first lesson in Odia' (1912), and D.P.Pattanaik's 'Controlled Historical Reconstruction of Odia', Assamese, Bengali and Hindi (1986) we found how the phonological system of Odia Language fascinated scholars to do study on the same because of its features and features of distinctiveness in the language both in structure and purpose.

It may be stated that, though Odia has retained most of the Indo Aryan characteristics it has come through changes over the period of time owing to its contact with the adjacent Dravidian and Munda languages, together in pronunciation and in other respect of linguistic factors. It is described as the oldest amongst all languages of Eastern India. Odia is recognized as sixth classical language of India. It is known to us that, language is a source with which human beings form and arrange their understanding. It is through language we construct information, attitudes, ideas and pass them to others. Likewise word is the unit of spoken communication, a sequence of words makes a sentence, and that communicates an idea. The morphology of Odia based on two types of morphemes: free and bound for structure of derivational words and inflectional structures. In addition, major words are made of free morphemes; it is derived words are made of free + free, bound + bound, and free + bound morphemes. The bound morphemes are mostly derivative affixes which are suffixed, prefixed or infixes always. All these words are divided into three broad classes such as nominal, verbal and functional. The nominal comprises nouns, pronouns and adjectives and these are added with the types of number, gender and case. The verbal is mostly action words and are added with the types of tense, mood sense etc. The functional words are indeclinable; therefore do not acquire any morphological indicator. The etymology and growth of Odia relate how society and culture concurrently add for richness. Odia word may be distinct as any linguistic unit working under a well-known stress.

The Odia vocal system is both simple and complete. It has two types of verb forms such as non-finite and finite. The non-finite forms are derived by the addition of affixes of aspect to the verb root and are used for structure of complex verb phrases and sentences. Linguistically talking the language has a lengthy history. Still we see proofs in rock inscription, palm leaf, copper plates, temple walls, mutts and furthermore in local varieties. The origin and growth of Odia language is in fact outstanding.

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