

CHAPTER 29

LINGUISTICS

Doctoral Theses

01. BHATTACHARYA (Pratibha)
Variation and Change : A Case Study of Calcutta Bengali.
Supervisor : Dr.Shobha Satyanath
Th 24147

Abstract
(Verified)

The present study is a sociolinguistic analysis of Bengali spoken in Calcutta. The study proposes that Calcutta Bengali has its roots in the numerous dialects spoken outside Calcutta. These dialects were brought into the city during the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries over several phases of migration and mobility. The study investigates the linguistic outcomes of dialect contact focusing on formation of new urban dialects. Using speech data from the northern part of Calcutta, the study analyses three variables: the alveolar sibilant (s), bilabial voiceless aspirated plosive (ph) and voiceless palatal plosive(ch). The findings suggest that the present day speech of Calcutta is highly multi-dialectal and multicultural. Many of the dialectal features brought in by the immigrant generations over the past 250 years have not disappeared. The present study is a contribution to the renewed interest in growing sociolinguistic diversity of cities worldwide.

Contents

1. Theoretical and methodological perspectives 2. Dialect contact and language variation in Calcutta 3. Social differentiation and language change 4. Social meaning of variation: Speaker evaluation 5. Summary and conclusions, bibliography.

02. MANGLA (*Andesha*)
Role of Indian Sign Language in Deaf Education.
Supervisor : Dr. Tanmoy Bhattacharya
Th 24294

Abstract
(Not Verified)

The objective of this thesis was to identify the role that Indian Sign Language plays in deaf education in India by looking at the structure of sign language that is used in the classroom. To arrive at answers to this major objective, the research study was divided into two phases. The first phase of the research involved visiting and observing classroom communication in deaf schools. The first phase focused on interviews and discussions and observations at 8 deaf schools across north India. School profiles, teacher questionnaires, student questionnaires and classroom observation sheets were filled in through discussions with teachers and through observations of classroom teaching. The major findings of the first phase were that even though schools claim to use total communication methods, in all the schools, the students communicated amongst themselves through manual language that showed some grammatical features that are common to sign languages like localization, role shift, non-manual expressions, etc. In the second phase, a narration of a picture story by students and teaching of science

lesson by teachers were video recorded and analysed. The students' and teacher's utterances and the communication between them was linguistically analysed in terms of lexical range, code-blends, grammatical structure, etc. Taken together, the findings of both the research phases highlight the impact of recognising and using ISL in the classroom in terms of teachers' attitudes and perspectives, teachers' expectations from deaf students, teaching style, and level of academic content. This impact on the teacher results in a rich language input, and accessible communication for deaf students, which in turn helps them develop fluency in sign language as a first language.

Contents

1. Introduction 2. Theory and literature review 3. Deaf education in India (Research phase – 1) 4. Classroom language and communication (Research phase – 1) 5. Conclusion. Bibliography and appnedices.

03. NEGI (Harvinder Kumar)

Ergativity in Kinnauri.

Supervisor : Prof. Pradeep Kumar Das and Prof. Ramesh Chand Sharma
Th 24151

Abstract (Not Verified)

This thesis has sought to explore and focus on the describe ergativity in Kinnauri, a Tibeto-Burman language of Kinnaura tribe of western Himalayas in North India. The description and analysis of the data in the thesis was done within the typological framework with the aim to analyze, describe and compare the ergativity pattern in the language, keeping Dixon's primitives S, A, and O at the centre of describing morphological marking and cross referencing in Kinnauri. Such a framework was most suited for describing languages considering that it is primed to be a general typological study to understand the alignment pattern in a language which has not been described so far. Kinnauri shows verbal agreement with subject in both intransitive and transitive i.e. A/S in all person and number. Since the language lack a grammatical gender so gender agreement is also absent. Kinnauri show distinct agreement markings in honorific and non-honorific. In very rare cases verbal agrees with objects, only when the objects are first and second person pronouns. Verbs do not show agreement with the third person pronoun objects. The object agreement occurs in all tenses and aspects. In case of case marking, Kinnauri attests ergative case affixed to the transitive verbs in perfective aspects and simple past tense. Ergative markers being -s with a phonological variant -is. The later is affixed to the transitive subjects ending in consonants and -s is affixed to other subjects.

Contents

1. Introduction 2.Ergativity and literature review 3. Kinnaurimorphosyntax 4. Ergativity in kinnauri 5.Ergativity in Neighboring languages 6. Conclusion.References.

04. SHARMA (Richa)

Sociophoetic Study of Variation Among Hindi/Punjabi : English Bilinguals in Delhi .

Supervisor : Dr. Shobha Satyanath
Th 24148

Abstract
(Verified)

The present study is a socio phonetic study of vowel variation in English spoken in urban Delhi. This study is based on speech data collected from one of the old neighborhoods of Delhi and is based on the Labovian framework of language variation and change. Given their crease in diffusion and use of English across social spectrum in Delhi over the past few decades and increased bilingualism with local languages the study attempts to account for the observed variation in terms of linguistic and social factors. The analysis shows that the three vowel variables KIT, GOAT and NORTH (under discussion) show lowering in Delhi English (DeIE hereafter). The results suggest that vowel lowering in DeIE is an internal development and presents a change from below. Furthermore, the lowering is conditioned by linguistic constraints especially prosodic factors. DeIE shows a rhythmic pattern of alternating syllable weights and vowel lengths. Among the social factors, it is the age and school background of the speakers that are more salient than the L1 background of the speakers.

Contents

1. Introduction: Diffusion of English: past and present 2. Kit, Goat and north vowel variation across Englishes 3. Linguistic constraints: Kit, Goat and north vowel variation 4. Social differentiation of Kit, Goat and north 5. Speaker evaluation of variability in Kit, Goat and north. 6. Summary and Conclusions .References.

M. Phil Dissertations

05. RATORI (Shraddha)
Semantics of Mass-Plurals in Hindi.
Supervisor : Prof. (Retd.) Tista Bagchi
06. VISHNU PRASAD K.
Lexical Errors in Malayalam as L2: A Study of Lexical Errors in Composition of Written Malayalam by Paniya Children.
Supervisor : Prof.(Retd.) Ramesh Chand Sharma
07. BARUAH (Chandrika)
Case Variation Across Eastern and Kamrupi Assamese.
Supervisor : Dr. Tanmoy Bhattacharya
08. SAPAM (Bidyarani)
Structure Status of Adjective and Adverbs in Meiteilon.
Supervisor : Dr. Tanmoy Bhattacharya
09. JOANNA J.
The Phonology of MARAM.
Supervisor : Dr. Gail Coelho