

The Structure of Phonological Networks and Social Identity of Heritage Languages

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ABSTRACT

This paper provides the basic information of the phonological networks and social identity about the heritage languages. The phonological networks convey the classification of the sound systems, while the social identity declares the difference among the native speakers of the heritage languages. The problem is investigated that how a particular speech segment created the variation among the speakers of the different languages in the speech communities. The objective of this paper is to determine the unique segments of the heritage languages and how these segments clear the social identity of the speakers in a particular speech community. The researcher collected the sample of primary and secondary data from the gadgets and the speakers of the heritage languages. The sample of data goes to the social characteristics of ages between twenty and forty of the respondents both male and female. The data are collected through observation, interview and the available literature of the heritage languages. For the collection of primary data, the high quality of the tape recorder is used and put approach to the mouth of the respondents for the recording at the time of interview. After the data collection, it is analysed base on the aspects of phonetics and phonology to find out the social identity of the respondents. In the result, it is found out that one particular speech segment represented the social identity of the speakers. In the framework of conclusion, it is represented that Urdu has different types of the speech segments covered all the processes of production, transmission, and perception.

Keywords: *heritage language; phonological networks; social identity; speech community*

INTRODUCTION

The structure of the phonological networks revealed the account of the system of sounds of the heritage languages spoken in the world. The languages have specific conventions of speech sounds for the determination of the word forms. The system of speech sounds in the act of articulation provided a social identity to the individuals. In the process of the act of the articulation, the unique features of the speech sounds are varied and represented the position of the organs. The term network in this research paper covered the factual issues of the speech sounds used by the speakers of the languages in particular speech communities. In the speech communities, the speakers

of the heritage languages shared the features of the speech sounds and identified the specific position in the cavities.

The framework of the phonological networks assigned the structure of the speech sounds and examined the status of the formal functions in the heritage languages. In many heritage languages, speech sounds are limited, and the speakers of those languages used different speech sounds to complete the cycle of communication. In the condition of the absence of the speech sounds in the heritage languages, the phonological network merged the distinctive features of other sounds to complete the levels of the articulation. The phonological network provided a way to use one single sound for managing the degree of articulation of the other sounds. **For example**, in English one single speech segment covered the features of more than one element and affirmed the social identity of the native speakers;



Fig. 1: Structure of the Phonological Networks

The speech segments of the heritage languages declared the social identity of the speakers in particular speech communities. In the account of the articulation and pronunciation of the speech sounds, the speakers judged the values and conditions of social and cultural activities. The social identity unveiled the ground of the language identity and determined the aspects of the production, transmission, reception, and perception of the speech sounds. The account of the articulation and pronunciation of the speech segments generated a path of variation to identify the social and cultural factors among the speakers. Under the umbrella of one language family, the speakers are entirely different for articulating a single sound in the speech communities. The social identity of the individuals expressed to the system of the speech segments and analysed the functions and actions of the conversation. Different languages have different sets of speech segments for the identification of the social and cultural background of the speakers.

The term heritage language referred to all the languages spoken for the communication and dominant over the other languages in the speech communities. In other words, languages spoken for a long time and altered from generation to generation are called heritage languages. A language qualifies as a heritage language if it is a language spoken at home or otherwise readily available to young children, and

variability among the heritage languages explored the dignity of the speakers for the convention of the communication. The variation and the variability of the heritage language assisted in detecting the social identity of the speakers.

METHOD

Data Collection and Procedure

The researcher collected the data from the gadgets and the speakers of the heritage languages. The data approached the primary and secondary both in the sense of primary collected from the native speakers of the heritage languages and secondary from the literature. The researcher read the literature of the heritage languages and selected the speech segments for the secondary data—the primary data collected from the native speakers of the heritage languages through interviews and observation. The researcher used the high quality of the tape recorder and put it beside the heritage language speakers for the data collection. The researcher asked some questions to the respondents regarding the use of language and got the answers. The researcher also provided some books of the heritage languages to the respondents for reading and recorded the speech.

The data is collected from the thirty respondents and some selected books of the heritage languages. The respondents were eighteen male and twelve female between the ages of twenty to forty. After collecting the primary and secondary data, the researcher selected the speech segments from the literature and recorded speech of the heritage language speakers. The researcher converted the speech segments into International Phonetic Alphabets (IPA) of the heritage languages and applied the principles of phonology. After the implementation of the phonological principles, the researcher compared the speech segments and formed the phonological network for the social identity of the speakers.

Nature of Data and Participants

The nature of data is primary and secondary both for the representation of similarities and differences among the speech segments of the heritage languages. The nature of the participants was positive and cooperative at the time of the collection of the data. The researcher introduced himself first and told the purpose of the data collection to the respondents. The researcher requested the respondents to use their native languages at the time of the communication. The respondents used their native languages to respond to the questions in the flow of communication. The participants read one paragraph of the book and interpreted it into their native languages. The researcher used the process of a simple random sampling method for the collection of data from the native speakers of the heritage languages. The nature of the native speakers of the heritage languages completed the procedure of the data collection.

Structure of Phonological Networks

The structure of the phonological networks provided a way of linking convention between the speech segments of the heritage languages. The account of the

speech segments filled the gap of the observation and classification of the features to control the act of speech. The phonological networks revealed the framework of the association among the sound systems and generalized the levels of the lexical items. The structure of the phonological networks examined the aspects of the languages and focused on the previous experiments have small portions of neighbouring words in the context of psycholinguistic theories of spoken word recognition, the first graph-theoretic analysis of an entire language network only prepared more recently meaning of words (Arbesman, Strogatz, & Vitevitch, 2009). The account of the speech segments among the heritage languages differentiated the act of articulation and achieved the facts of the pronunciation. **For example**, in Urdu, the speech segments are divided into many groups for covering the degree of variation in the words;

Classification of Urdu Vowels

| Urdu Orthography | IPA Symbols | PLU Symbols | Examples | Gloss |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|
| ا | /ə/ | A | اب /əb/ | 'now' |
| اَ | /ɑ/ | A | اکثر /aksər/ | 'often' |
| آ | /ɑ:/ | AA | آمد /ɑ:məɖ/ | 'arrival' |
| اِ | /ɪ/ | I | ادھر /ɪɖhər/ | 'here' |
| ای | /i:/ | II | ایمان /i:mɑ:n/ | 'conscience' |
| ے | /e/ | E | احساس /ehsa:s/ | 'feeling' |
| اے | /e:/ | AE | ایجاد /e:ɖʒɑ:ɖ/ | 'invention' |
| اُ | /ʊ/ | U | ادھر /ʊɖhər/ | 'there' |
| اُو | /u:/ | UU | اوپر /u:pər/ | 'above' |
| و | /o/ | O | اولاد /ola:ɖ/ | 'children' |
| او | /o:/ | OO | اوجھل /o:ɖʒhəl/ | 'missing' |

Table 1: Phonological Representation of Urdu Vowels

Classification of Urdu Consonants

| Urdu Orthography | IPA Symbols | PLU Symbols | Examples | Gloss |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------|
| پ | /p/ | P | پیٹھ /pi:th/ | 'back' |
| پھ | /ph/ | PH | پھل /phəl/ | 'fruit' |
| ب | /b/ | B | بارش /ba:rɪʃ/ | 'rain' |

| | | | | |
|----|-------|-----|------------------|-------------|
| بھ | /bh/ | BH | بھائی /bha:i/ | 'brother' |
| م | /m/ | M | مان /ma:/ | 'mother' |
| ت | /t/ | T | تاریخ /tɑ:ri:kh/ | 'history' |
| تھ | /th/ | TH | تھالی /tʰa:li:/ | 'plate' |
| د | /d/ | D | دنیا /dʌnija/ | 'world' |
| دھ | /dh/ | DH | دھوپ /dʰup/ | 'sunlight' |
| ن | /n/ | N | ناک /na:k/ | 'nose' |
| ٹ | /t/ | T | ٹالنا /tɑ:lna:/ | 'avoid' |
| تھ | /th/ | TH | ٹھیک /tʰi:k/ | 'fine' |
| ڈ | /d/ | D | ڈر /dər/ | 'scare' |
| ڈھ | /dh/ | DH | ڈھال /dʰa:l/ | 'shield' |
| چ | /tʃ/ | CH | چال /tʃa:l/ | 'trick' |
| چھ | /tʃh/ | CHH | چھال /tʃʰa:l/ | 'bark' |
| ج | /dʒ/ | J | جال /dʒa:l/ | 'net' |
| جھ | /dʒh/ | JH | جھوٹ /dʒhu:t/ | 'lie' |
| ک | /k/ | K | کام /ka:m/ | 'work' |
| کھ | /kh/ | K | کھانا /kʰa:na/ | 'meal' |
| گ | /g/ | G | گلا /gəla:/ | 'throat' |
| گھ | /gh/ | GH | گھلا /ghula:/ | 'soluble' |
| ح | /h/ | H | حساب /hisa:b/ | 'account' |
| خ | /x/ | KHH | خبر /xəbər/ | 'news' |
| ٹ | /ʃ/ | S | ٹمر /ʃəmər/ | 'fruit' |
| س | /s/ | S | سفر /səfər/ | 'travel' |
| ص | /s/ | S | صبر /səbr/ | 'patience' |
| ش | /ʃ/ | SH | شہر /ʃehər/ | 'city' |
| ز | /z/ | Z | زبان /zəba:n/ | 'language' |
| ژ | /z/ | ZH | ژالہ /zɑ:la:/ | 'hailstone' |
| ذ | /z/ | Z | ذات /zɑ:t/ | 'caste' |

| | | | | |
|----|------|-----|-----------------|----------------|
| ض | /z̤/ | ZH | ضبط /zəbt̤/ | 'confiscation' |
| ظ | /z/ | Z | ظلم /zʊlm/ | 'cruelty' |
| ط | /t̤/ | T | طالب /t̤ɑ:lɪb/ | 'student' |
| ر | /r/ | R | رات /rɑ:t̤/ | 'night' |
| ڑ | /r̤/ | RH | کپڑا /kəprɑ:/ | 'cloth' |
| ڑھ | /r̤/ | RHH | بوڑھا /bu:ɽɑ:/ | 'old' |
| ع | /ɣ/ | AE | علم /ɪlm/ | 'knowledge' |
| غ | /ɣ̤/ | GHH | غلام /ɣʊlɑ:m/ | 'slave' |
| ف | /f/ | F | فرض /fərz̤/ | 'duty' |
| ق | /q/ | Q | قرض /qərz̤/ | 'loan' |
| ل | /l/ | L | لرز /lərz̤/ | 'shiver' |
| و | /w/ | W | وزن /wəzən/ | 'weight' |
| ھ | /h̤/ | H | ہنا /h̤əna/ | 'immortal' |
| ء | /ɔ̤/ | EI | عید /ɔ̤i:d̤/ | 'happy' |
| ں | /õ̤/ | N̤ | آسمان /ɑ:smaõ̤/ | 'sky' |
| ہ | /h/ | H | ہمیشہ /həmeʃɑ/ | 'always' |

Table 2: Phonological Representation of Urdu Consonants

The structure of the phonological networks revealed the aspects of the speech segments of the heritage languages. The distinctive features of the speech segments created a particular way for the convention of variation in the factors of the articulation. In the structure of the phonological networks, each segment wrapped the process of naturalization and identification of the class in the inventory of the heritage languages. The class-based speech segments completed the procedures of the fact-finding and enhanced the criteria of understanding. In networking, the heritage languages contacted each other and interpreted the specific features of the speech segments for the representation of the act of speech.

The structure of the phonological networks revealed the social identity of the heritage language speakers based on the act of the articulation of the speech segments. The architecture of the cavities is varied from one speaker to another in terms of articulating the speech segments for the identification of social identity. In the language contact situation, the speakers adjourned some significant linguistic features of the speech segments. The principles of phonology governed the classical conditions of the linguistic features of the speech segments and explored the way of similarities and differences. The account of the phonological networks generated the process of growth

and development of the contact situation among the speech segments of the heritage languages. The phonological network collected the levels of the speech segments and merged them in a specific way for the determination of phonological processes.

Expressions of Heritage Languages

The heritage languages are expressed to the genesis of the speakers once spoken by the ancestors in a particular speech community. The languages transmitted the ideas, concepts, behaviours, attitudes, aptitudes, and affected the psychological expressions of the speakers. The procedure of the heritage languages moved from one culture to another and affected to the prestigious properties of other languages or dialects. Most of the heritage language speakers wrapped the blanket of bilingualism and multilingualism for the convenience to understand the factors of other languages in the speech communities.

Heritage language speakers are bilinguals, simultaneous or sequential, raised in homes where a language other than the dominant language of the broader community was spoken (Valdes, 2000). The expressions of the heritage languages attracted the whole mechanism of the speakers and adopted the values of the dominant languages. Just as heritage language speakers tend to struggle with the aspects of grammar that prove problematic for child language learners, so too do heritage language speakers struggle with aspects of grammar that are difficult to master for L2 learners (Sanz & Torres, 2018). The status of the heritage languages is represented within the specific features of the speech segments as given below;

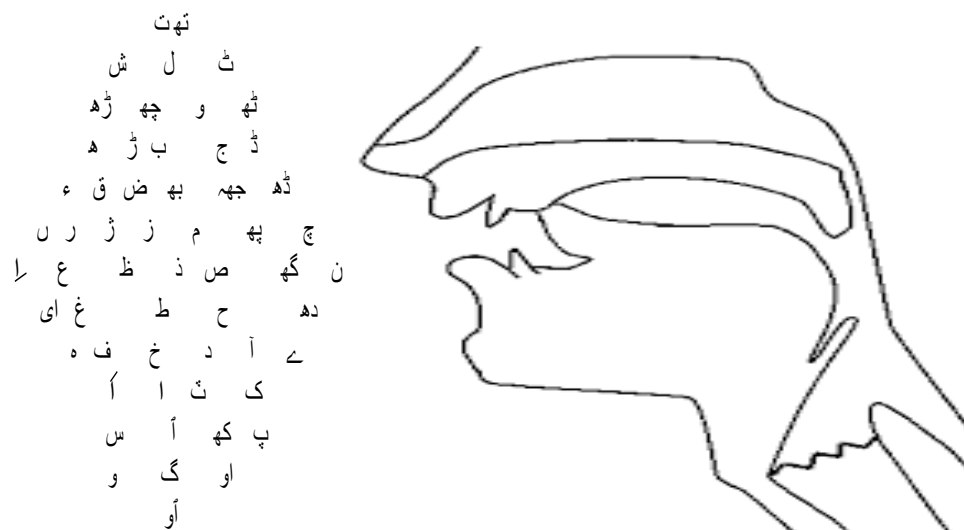


Fig. 3: Mechanism of the Speech Act

The mechanism of the speech act introduced several speech segments of a particular heritage language for the identification of the social identity of the individuals. The expression of the articulation in the speech sounds of the heritage languages determined the physiological aspects of the speech organs to recognize the

social and cultural background of the speakers. The social identity is a tool to use to identify the mechanism of the speech act in the fluency of the speakers at the time of the communication. The mechanism of the speech act created a suitable path and helped to recognize a specific position of the speech segments in the form of production, transmission, reception, and perception.

From the point of view, the expressions of the heritage languages, the speakers are varied to use the figures of the speech segments and revealed the factors of social identity. The framework of the social identity included the act of behaviour of the speakers to introduce the account of the streams of the speech segments. The structure of the heritage languages did not cover all the aspects of the speech segments due to the lack of the elements in the form of production and articulation. In the account of the language contact situation, some heritage languages adopted the elements from other languages and marked a diacritic symbol for the determination of the social identity of the speakers.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In the structure of the phonological networks, the account of the speech segments revealed the social identity of the heritage language speakers. In the classification of the vowel segments, it is determined that the Urdu language covered most of the vocoids constriction in the flow of phonemic inventory. In this research paper, the researcher explored the twelve vowels for the constriction of the speech mechanism. Urdu as a heritage language included the vowels like /ə/, /a/, /ɑ:/, /ɪ/, /i:/, /e/, /e:/, /ʊ/, /u:/, /o/, and /o:/ for the description of the lexical items used in from of the communication. As compared to the other heritage languages, Urdu did not have the forms of the mid-half-open back rounded vowel /ɔ/, low-open back unrounded vowel /ɒ/, and mid-half open front unrounded vowel /æ/ for the construction of the word forms.

All the existed vowel segments are confronted in the positions of the lexical items and generated an explicit framework of the social identity of the speakers. It is generalized that some vowels have the process of the digraph for the representation of the long vowels in Urdu. As compared to other heritage languages, Urdu has a unique approach that altered the entire structure of the speech segments. If the 'zabar,' 'zer,' and 'pesh' (the diacritic marks) are added to the 'alif' (ا) represented 'schwa' /ə/ will changed the whole structure of the element and became /a/, /ɪ/, and /ʊ/. One of the significant features is the 'mad' /madd/ (◌◌) as a diacritic mark added to the 'alif' (ا) represented a front low-open unrounded long vowel (ا◌) /ɑ:/. The composition of the diacritic marks within the structure of the single speech segments changed the properties of the distinctive features and mechanized a new shape of the element.

In the context of the digraph, the two different speech segments are merged in a specific environment and formed a long vowel for the increment of the production, transmission, reception, and perception of the speech sounds. The front close short unrounded vowel (ا) /ɪ/ added to the same pattern of the vowel ع /i/ and formed a front close long unrounded vowel (ع ا) /i:/ in the form of the articulation. The central

retracted vowel 'schwa' (اِ) /ə/ added to the front mid-close unrounded vowel (اَ) /e/ and generated a new frame of the front mid-close unrounded long vowel (آَ) /e:/ to use in the act of speech. The back close short rounded vowel (اُ) /ʊ/ merged within the same structure of the vowel (اَو) /o/ and provided a novel outline of a back close long rounded vowel (اُوٓ) /u:/.

In the end, the back mid-half-close rounded vowel (اَو) /o/ associated to the privileges of the same features of the vowel (اَو) /o/ and produced a new shape of the back mid-half-close long rounded vowel (اَوٓ) /o:/. These all diacritic marks and diagraphs are the significant aspects of the speech sounds and provided a unique framework for the representation of the social identity to the speakers of the Urdu language. In this research paper, it is found out that the diacritic marks and diagraphs changed the entire structure of the speech segments in Urdu and differentiated from other heritage language speakers.

In the account of the classification of the consonants, the process of aspiration occurred in both voiceless and voiced speech segments. It is generalized that the aspiration can occur in any position of the words and altered the whole structure of the phonemes in Urdu. The construction of the phoneme based on the aspiration and voicing is the key factor to identify the social and cultural status of the speakers. One single speech segment in English known as voiceless alveolar fricative /s/ bore the features of three different elements like voiceless alveolar fricative س /s/, voiceless dental fricative ص /s̺/, and voiceless interdental fricative ث /s̪/ of Urdu. On another side, the voiced alveolar fricative /z/ wrapped the full-length features of the three different speech segments included the voiced alveolar fricative ز /z/, voiced dental fricative ض /z̺/, and voiced interdental fricative ذ /z̪/ of Urdu in English.

The process of the aspiration and voicing is represented through a single element like voiceless glottal fricative ه /h/ and distinguished the similarity between the phonemes. In some heritage languages, the account of the voicing and aspiration revealed the phenomena of the allophonic variation besides two phonemes, but in Urdu cleared the way of two different phonemes in all the positions of the words. Like the vowels, the consonants also have the property of the digraph used 'do chashmi he' ه /dʰ tʃəʃmi: he/ for the classification of aspiration and voicing. This segment may or may not be merged within the other elements because it has distinctive features to represent a separate phoneme.

In the context of the phonological system of the speech sounds, Urdu heritage language speakers did not have the procedure of the alveolar speech segments for the consideration of the social identity. As compared to the Urdu language's phonemic inventory, Arabic heritage language speakers did not have the account of alveolar and retroflex to determine the level of the constituency of speech segments. Arabic speakers also did not have the forms of voiceless bilabial plosive or stop پ /p/, voiceless palatal affricate چ /tʃ/, voiced post-alveolar fricative ج /ʒ/, voiced velar plosive or stop گ /g/, voiceless glottal fricative ه /h/, voiceless glottal stop ء /ʔ/, and front-mid half-close front unrounded vowel آَ /e:/. Arabic heritage language speakers used other speech segments at the position of the absence of these sound systems in the form of

communication. They used dental speech segments at the place of alveolar and retroflex speech sounds, ب /b/ > پ /p/, ز /z/ > ژ /z̤/, غ /ɣ/ > گ /g/, ه /h/ > ہ /h̤/, ا /a/ > آ /ʔ/, and ی /e/ > ے /e:/ for the communication.

Hindi heritage language speakers did not have the structure of fourteen speech segments as compared to Urdu, including ح /ħ/, خ /x/, ز /z/, ژ /z̤/, ذ /z̤/, ض /z̤/, ط /t̤/, ظ /z̤/, ع /ɣ/, غ /ɣ/, ف /f/, ق /q/, ء /ʔ/, and ه /h̤/. Hindi heritage language speakers borrowed these speech segments from Urdu or any other language for spoken or written communication. In the form of the written communication used certain types of diacritic marks to represent the identity of borrowing elements. In the environment of Hindi, the writer used decimal point (.) as a diacritic mark just below the speech segments for the representation of borrowed elements from other languages. Every heritage language has some specific features that helped to recover the social identity of the speakers. In most cases, the social and cultural identity of the heritage language speakers is detected through the process of production, transmission, and reception of the speech segments.

CONCLUSION

The researcher concluded that the structure of the phonological networks selected the phonemic and phonetic properties of the speech segments of the heritage languages and revealed the social identity of the speakers. The social and cultural identity of the heritage language speakers cleared the way of geographical proximity to understand the sense of the relaxification. The heritage languages speakers borrowed the speech segments from other languages and used remain constant or alter the structure in the form of the articulation. The borrowed elements are judged with the help of the diacritic marks and provided a way of exploration. Some heritage language speakers altered the entire mechanism of the speech segments and were used in the flow of the production of the speech act.

The articulation of the speech sounds within the structure of the phonological framework characterized the social identity of the heritage languages. In some heritage languages, the speakers used a single element to represent more than one speech segment and girdled the blanket of identical distinctive features. The process of the adoption or adaptation of the speech segments explicated the framework of the social identity of the heritage languages. The structure of the phonological network revealed the mechanism of the speech act and localized the positions of the speech organs in the cavities to identify the degree of the social identity of the heritage languages.

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