

Sindhi

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The variety of Sindhi described here is roughly representative of the Vicholi dialect, which is considered to be the 'Standard variety.' This variety has special prestige attached to it because the most celebrated poet of Sindhi, Abdul Latif, wrote the classic 'Shah jo Rasalo' in this dialect. The description, based on the author's own speech, has been kept fairly close to the colloquial style. The transcription is based on a recording of a male first generation speaker of Standard Sindhi who grew up in Sindh, Pakistan, before moving to India in 1947. For a detailed discussion of Sindhi segments see Khubchandani (1961).

Consonants

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Plosive	p b p ^h b ^h		t d t ^h d ^h		ʈ ɖ ʈ ^h ɖ ^h		k g k ^h g ^h	
Implosive	ɓ			ɗ		ɟ	ŋ	
Affricate						c ʃ c ^h ʃ ^h		
Nasal	m m ^h			n n ^h	ɳ ɳ ^h	ɲ	ŋ	
Fricative		f		s z	ʂ		x ɣ	h
Tap				r	ɽ ɽ ^h			
Approximant		ʋ				j		
Lateral Approximant			l l ^h					

p pənu 'leaf'
b buʃu 'shoes'
p^h p^huʃə 'rift'
b^h b^hʊlə 'mistake'
ɓ ɓaru 'child'
m məʃu 'pitcher'
m^h m^hɛ 'buffalo'
f fərasɪ 'bed cover'

t tərɔ 'bottom'
d dɔnu 'navel'
t^h t^hali 'plate'
d^h d^harə 'separate'
ɗ ɗaru 'crevice'
n nalo 'name'
n^h sən^hi 'thin'
s sufu 'apple'
z zalə 'wife'
r rolu 'wanderer'
l limo 'lemon'
l^h t^hʊl^hi 'fat' (adj)

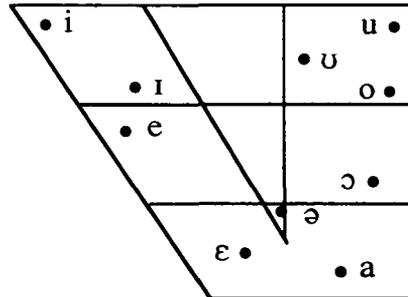
ʈ ʈopi 'cap'
ɖ ɖəpu 'fear'
ʈ^h ʈ^həru 'be cool'
ɖ^h ɖ^həku 'cover' (n)
ɳ məɳi 'diamond'
ɳ^h məɳ^hu 'person'
ʂ ʂə 'thing'
ɽ p^hoɽo 'sore' (n)
ɽ^h poɽ^ho 'old man'

c	calu	'cunning'	k	kano	'straw'
ʃ	ʃuto	'shoes'	g	gano	'song'
c ^h	c ^h ati	'breast'	k ^h	k ^h ano	'drawer'
ʃ ^h	ʃ ^h əp	'immediately'	g ^h	g ^h oɽo	'horse'
f	ʃaro	'cobweb'	ǰ	ǰəro	'heavy'
ɲ	ʃəɲə	'marriage procession'	ŋ	cəŋo	'good'
			x	xɔfu	'fear'
j	jaru	'friend'	ɣ	ɣəmu	'sorrow'
			h	haru	'necklace'

Vowels

Sindhi has a system of ten oral vowels.

i	sirə	'midstream'
ɪ	sɪrə	'brick'
e	serə	(a measure of weight)
ɛ	sɛrə	'walks' (v)
a	sarə	'jealousy'
ə	sərə	'funeral'
ɔ	cəvəɛɔ	'you will say'
o	cəvəɛo	'he will say'
u	surə	'tunes'
ʊ	surə	'aches and pains'



The vowels /ɛ/ and /ɔ/ tend to be diphthongized, as [eə] and [əʊ]. These vowels have a limited distribution, not occurring before aspirated stops, implosives, nasals or /ɣ/. Vowels are audibly nasalized preceding a nasal consonant, but, as in many other modern Indo-Aryan languages, there are a few words in Sindhi with distinctive nasalized vowels. Compare /əsi/ 'eighty', /əsi/ 'we'; /ad^hi/ 'half-rupee', /ād^hi/ 'storm'; /dəhi/ 'yoghurt', /dəhi/ 'tenth'. For this reason, vowel nasalization must be regarded as phonemic, and it has been marked in the transcription of the passage below in positions where it is not predictable from a preceding nasal.

Stress

Word-level stress is nondistinctive, and is fixed on the first syllable of the morpheme. Contrastive stress may be used to give special emphasis to a word or to point to a contrast of ideas.

Conventions

The consonants in the post-alveolar column of the chart are pronounced as apical post-alveolars (Nihalani 1974b). They have been transcribed, following tradition, with symbols for retroflex sounds. The consonants in the palatal column are laminal post-alveolars. /c, c^h, ʃ, ʃ^h/ have an affricated release of relatively short duration. The

alveolar nasal /n/ occurs mostly before dental or alveolar consonants and is pronounced homorganic with the following consonant. [ʊ] is in free variation with [w] as the realization of /v/.

Breathy-voiced consonants, transcribed with [ʰ], are produced with the vocal folds incompletely closed at the center and with the arytenoid cartilages apart (Nihalani 1974a). Of the rhotics /r, ʀ, ʀʰ/, /r/ is realized most often as a tap but may be a trill with two or more contacts, /ʀ, ʀʰ/ are typically flaps.

Vowels in open syllables tend to be longer than those in closed syllables. /ə, ɪ, u/ are shorter than other vowels. Stops in intervocalic position preceded by these vowels tend to be longer than those preceded by other vowels, e.g.:

[mʊd:o]	'period'	[mado]	'capability'
[pət:o]	'leaf'	[pato]	'worn'
[pɪ:tə]	'curse'	[moʔo]	'fat'

Transcription of recorded passage

utərə ʒi həva ē sɪʒu pāŋə mē ʒʰəŋʀo kərə rəhja huja tə bɪnʰi mē keru vədʰikə takətvaro ahe. etre mē hɪku musafirʊ gərəm koʒu pae utā əci ləŋʒʰjo. həva ē sɪʒə bɪnʰi kəbʊl kəjo tə ʒəkə musafirə ʒo koʒu lahrae səŋʰəndo uho i vədʰikə takətvaro ləkʰjo vendo. po utərə ʒi həva dʰadʰfo zora sā ləŋʒi, pərə ʒetro vədʰikə zora sā ləŋʒi otro vədʰikə zorə sā musafirə pāŋə kʰe dʰəkʰiŋə ʒi koʒiʒ kəʒi. axir mē utərə ʒe həva koʒiʒ chʰəde dʰini. po sɪʒə ʒi usə zorə sā nɪkti ē musafirə pāhɪŋʒo koʒu ʒəldi lahe pərə pʰɪʒi kəjo. inhə kərə utərə ʒə həva məŋʒo tə sɪʒu hi bɪnʰi mē vədʰikə takətvaro ahe.

Orthographic version

اُتر جي هڪ اي سڄ پاڻ ۾ جهڳڙو ڪري رهيا هئا
 ٻنهي ۾ ڪيڙو وڌيڪ طاقتوارو آهي. ايتري ۾ هڪ
 مسافر گهر ڪوٺ پائي اُتان آبي لنگهيو. هڪ اي سڄ
 ٻنهي قبول ڪيو ته جيڪو مسافر هڪ ڪوٺ لاهرائي
 سگهندو اُهو ئي وڌيڪ طاقتوارو ليکيو ويندو.
 پوءِ اُتر جي هڪ وڏو زور سان لڳي پر جيٽرو
 وڌيڪ زور سان لڳي اوترو وڌيڪ زور سان مسافر
 پاڻي ڏڪڻ جي ڪوشش ڪئي. آخر ۾ اُتر جي هڪ
 ڪوشش ٻڌي ٻنهي ۾ پوءِ سڄ جي اُس زور سان
 نڪتي ۽ مسافر پنهنجو ڪوٺ ڇڏي اچي پري
 ڦٽي ڪيو. انهيءَ ڪري اُتر جي هڪ هڪيو ته سڄ
 هي ٻنهي ۾ وڌيڪ طاقتوارو آهي.

References

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