Two Dialects, One Region: A Study of Punjabi Variations in Selected Regions of Sahiwal

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Abstract: *This study compares the phonological, lexical, and morpho-syntactic characteristics of two distinct Punjabi villages (A & B). These villages are in Pakistani Punjab's District Sahiwal. Since these dialects might at times behave like the identities of some geographical places, this study attempts to characterise the most notable distinctions between the two varieties. Additionally, this study examined how some linguistic characters were used differently in undefined discussions from both areas. Each group, including fifteen males, was recorded from two different communities. It was stated how each dialect differed at the morpho-syntactic, phonological, and lexical levels. The study's findings makes it abundantly evident that dialects affect how a word is spoken and understood.*

Introduction

Language is the basic tool to communicate and interact with others in a society. Each language of a country has many variations and dialects in it. Language varies from culture to culture and region to region in a particular context. On the other hand, language is a crucial part of our life and frequently serves as a primary symbol of our religious, cultural, and social identities.

Joseph (2004, p.13) describes language and identity as indivisible elements. The relationship between language and identity has been extensively examined, and linguistic and ethnic identity has always been an important element of our social and cultural lives (Rahman 2002, p. 1). According to Ramelan (1984), language is considered a source of communication that uses speech sound as a medium. Without language, communication does not take place. Pakistan is a multilingual country, which means that there are more than two languages that are spoken all over Pakistan. Here, multilingual means a person who can speak more than two languages. Variations also take place within one language.

Many people have misconceptions about both the terms dialect and accent, but both are different terms. Accent refers to the pronunciation of words, while dialect refers to the differences in geographical area and variations of morphology, lexical items, and syntax of a language. These dialects serve as a powerful identification identifier for a certain group, even when people from one dialect community interact with people from another.

Research Objectives

- To highlight the differences in dialects, which make a language difficult for people.
- To understand dialect barriers for people in many regions.

Research Question

- What are the differences in dialects that make a language difficult to understand for many people in a single region?

- How do these dialects act as a barrier for people in many regions, and do people face difficulties in the pronunciation of their words?

Literature Review

In December 2015, Asmaaetman and A. A (Louis) Beex has reported a survey on language and dialect identification. In their survey, they talked about language variations and how these language variations make different dialects individually.

Hodson (2014) said that the dialect depends upon geographical variations and also on the background that is associated with society. He analyzes the concept of dialect based on that example, which is given as Two kids that are growing up in the same village means that the geographical area of both remains the same, but if the geographical area is changed means both are growing up in different areas one is growing up in rich family elite class and studying in the private good school which is expensive as well. At the same time, the other one is born in a middle-class family and studying in government schools. Due to variation in areas, the variety of languages also varies with respect to area.

Crystal (2014) talks about the differences that occur in accent and dialect. He said that accent is a narrow-level term that refers to the pronunciations of language that vary from person to person and the way in which an individual speaks. In accent, just pronunciation matters because it is a narrow term. On the other hand, dialect refers to a variation of language that is related to geographical area, syntax, and morphology, and its variation does not depend from person to person but refers from community to community or group to group. Dialect is a broader term as compared to accent.

Akmajian (2001) said that dialect is dependent upon society, meaning in which society a person lives. The dialect of that individual depends on society and what type of language society uses.

Then, an individual gets that variety of language from society, so according to him, dialect is dependent upon society, no matter what type of language that specific society uses in communication.

Research Methodology

This study based on the quantitative method in which the population which is selected for this experiment is from the villages of Sahiwal, which contain many dialects of the Punjabi language. This study is focused on linguistic, morpho-syntactic, and phonological distinctions between two nearby villages, Chak 86/6-R (village A) and Chak 91/6-R (village B). Both villages are located in the district of Sahiwal, Punjab, Pakistan, and serve as samples for the current study investigation.

The speakers of both villages are Punjabi speakers. Punjabi is a very old language, and it is the official language of the province of Punjab. According to a rough estimate, almost 100 million Punjabi speakers are living in the world. Although Punjabi is spoken by the majority of people in Pakistan—roughly 45% of the population—it is one of the country's least used languages. The Punjabi language has many dialects like Majhi, Malawi, Doable, Powadhi, and a few others are spoken in eastern Punjab, which is also called "Charhda Punjab," and Saraiki, Hindko, and Pahari-pathway dialects are spoken in western Punjab which is also called "Lehnda Punjab."

Theoretical Framework

William Labov's sociolinguistic system is pinned with my work to analyze the complicated connection between dialect and identity. Labov's pioneering work emphasizes the dynamic interplay between linguistic variation and sociocultural factors, establishing a foundation for understanding how language choices contribute to the construction of individual and group identities. Labov's study, particularly in "The Social Stratification of English in New York City," demonstrates how phonetic elements are not mere reflections of local or social backgrounds but are rather complexly linked to personality development. His principles of linguistic change emphasize the

dynamic nature of language, suggesting that semantic variations are not static entities but are instead responsive to social contexts and individual agency. Labov's work provides a lens for this work to unravel the nuanced ways in which individuals employ linguistic variants, including dialectical elements, as tools for expressing and negotiating their identities within specific social environments. It examined the social inspirations driving language use, revealing insight into how people decisively convey semantic assets to line up with or separate themselves from specific character builds.

Data Analysis

Phonological, morpho-syntactic, and lexical differences in the speech communities located in the villages (86/6-R) and (91/6-R) were noted throughout the data analysis process. The study's conclusions are covered in the section that follows.

Phonological Differences

Under the observation of phonology, variations occur in vowel sound [ɔ:/a]. The vowel [ɔ:] was pronounced in the village (86/6-R), and the vowel [a] was pronounced in the village (91/6-R). Some items do not show any variation in pronunciation, like Chakk [ʧak] "village," Chatt [ʧat] "lick," Kutt [kɔ:t] "beat," Chupp [ʧɔ:p] "quiet" and Lutt [lɔ:t] "rob." But also, there were some words with different dialects, like the variation in vowel sounds [ɔ:] and [a].

Village (86/6-R)	Village (91/6-R)
[pɔ:t] (dig up)	[pat] (dig up)
[sɔ:t] (throw)	[sat] (throw)
[ʧɔ:k] (lift)	[ʧak] (lift)

This data clears the dialect boundaries. Results show the pronunciation of vowel [ɔ:] in village A and the pronunciation of vowel [a] in village B. There is only one exception with the vowel [i]; one speaker speaks this vowel sometimes for the same word.

[pɔ:t] vs [pat] 'dig up'

These words were analyzed when some farmers were working in the fields. This variation occurs during their speech. This morpheme is a verb. The speakers from village A used the vowel [ɔ:], and the vowel [a] was pronounced by village B.

This pronunciation varies according to age group because some students of college level were not pronouncing these vowels.

Village (86/6-R)	Village (91/6-R)
1. Asi aj apny aalu [pɔ:t] ly aa. We dug up our potatoes today.	1. Tu aalu ku ni [pat] rya? Why are you not digging up the potatoes?
2. Ohna ny sary aalu aj ee [pɔ:tnei] aaa. They are going to dig up all the potatoes today.	2. Ohna aakhiya ay 3 killy aalu [patnei] aa. They said that they had to dig up 3 acres of potatoes today.

Almost 75% of speakers from village A speak the vowel [ɔ:], and almost 67% of speakers use the vowel [a] in their speaking. Because there were some youngsters, most of them were school and college going.

Words	Village (86/6-R)	Village (91/6-R)	Results
[pɔ:t] Dig up	75(100%)	0	75
[pat] Dig up	0	67(100%)	67

Age Groups

Words	Village (86/6-R)	Village (91/6-R)	Results
[pɔ:t] Dig up	35	0	35
[pat] Dig up	0	43	43

Group 1(50+ age)

Words	Village (86/6-R)	Village (91/6-R)	Results
[pɔ:t] Dig up	18	0	18
[pat] Dig up	0	25	25

Group 2 (25 to 40)

Words	Village (86/6-R)	Village (91/6-R)	Results
[pɔ:t] Dig up	9	0	9
[pat] Dig up	0	12	12

Group 3 (18-24)

[ʧɔ:k] v/s [ʧak] 'uplift'

The findings for this term are closely alike to morpheme [pɔ:t], [pat] dig up. The difference in dialect is clearly mentioned. Speakers of both villages use this morpheme in their communication. The results are shown in the table:

Words	Village (86/6-R)	Village (91/6-R)	Results
[ʧɔ:k]	31	0	31
[ʧak]	0	37	37

Age Groups

Words	Village (86/6-R)	Village (91/6-R)	results
[ʧɔ:k]	25	0	25
[ʧak]	0	17	17

Group 1 (50+ age)

Words	Village (86/6-R)	Village (91/6-R)	Results
[ʧɔ:k]	12	0	12
[ʧak]	0	8	8

Group 2 (25 to 40)

Words	Village (86/6-R)	Village (91/6-R)	Results
[ʧɔ:k]	11	0	11
[ʧak]	0	14	14

Group 3 (18 to 25)

The word [ʧɔ:k] is used in village A in all grammatical contexts, but in village B, the morpheme [ʧak] is used in just the cases of the words.

Village A	Village B
1. Kick marda ay ty doviaan lata [ʧɔ:k] lenda ay When kicking the ball, he lifts both legs. 2. Ehdy wasty ni [ʧɔ:kiaa] We have not lifted for this.	1. Ohnu [ʧak] k ty utty rkh dita He lifted it and left it there. 2. Kataban [ʧakiaa] ty laga jave. He was carrying his books in his hand while he was walking.

[sɔ:t] vs [sat], [sit] 'throw'

This morpheme is also similar to the above. But in those mentioned above, there were only two variables, but here is an exception with an extra variant. In observation, The speakers of both villages sometimes use the variable [sit] in their communication.

Variable	Village A	Village B	Total Tokens
[sɔ:t]	25	0	25
[sat]	16	3	19
[sit]	0	3	3

The boundaries of dialects are cleared. Twenty-five speakers from village A use the variable [sɔ:t], but there is some exception in the speaking variable [sat] because 3 persons from village B also use this variable. The reason is that all 3 speakers belong to the age group (50 & speakers are those who are already mentioned above as they are social persons and have broader interactions with other people, so they also know the variable [sit], which is used by the above) and they are educated. Hence, their social context is wider than all, so mostly they have to go out from the village and interact with others. That's why they can use other variables.

Three speakers also use the variable [sit]. These

persons of the 3rd village, which is situated at a distance of 3 kilometers from village B.

1. Jiven machine [sit] di ay

As machine throws

Age Groups

Words	Village (86/6-R)	Village (91/6-R)	Results
[sɔːt]	19	0	19
[sat]	0	14	14
[sit]	0	3	3

Group 1 (50+ age)

Words	Village (86/6-R)	Village (91/6-R)	Results
[sɔːt]	26	0	26
[sat]	0	22	22

Group 2(25 to 40)

Words	Village (86/6-R)	Village (91/6-R)	Results
[sɔːt]	9	0	9
[sat]	0	10	10

Group 3(18-24)

Morpho-syntactic Variation

At this level, some differences are observed in village (86/6-R) and village (91/6-R) in combination with verb formation. Communicators from the village (86/6-R) use the words laiy ay 'take and' jaa naii 'go' after the main verb. And the communicators from the village (91/6-R) use the same, like honii 'to be'and khala ay 'stand is'. The following lines could represent the variation:

1. Asii tery kolo tombb **mangg** **lae** **ay** (Village 86/6 R)
   We   you from jewel ask   take   is
   We ask you for a jewel?

2. Asi tery kolo tombb **mangii** **khaly aa** (Village 91/6 R)
   We   you from jewel ask   stand are
   Do we ask you for a jewel?

Do we ask you for a jewel?

These sentences show the clear variation between the dialects at the morphological and syntactical level in both villages. The sentence of village (86/6-R) ends with an explicatory and auxiliary 'lae ay.' The speakers of village (91/6-R) end their sentences with explicatory and auxiliary 'khaly aa'. Another difference could be observed in this because sentence 1 (village A) speaks 'lae', which shows the gender with 'tomb', and in sentence 2 (village B), the word 'khaly' mentions the word 'asi', which means 'we'.

The same variations are shown in the following lines:

3. Ohdy **kolu** kandh ni **tappi janii** (Village 86/6 R)
   He   by wall no jump over
   He can't jump over the wall.
4. Ohdy **to** kandd ni **tap honi** (Village 91/6 R)
   He from wall no jump over to be
   He can't jump over the wall.

He can't jump over the wall.

In phrase 3, the villager (86/6-R) adds the explicator 'janii' after the primary verb 'tappi'. In phrase 4, the speaker from village (91/6-R) makes use of the explicator 'honi' following the primary verb 'tapp'. Another version is used in these lines, for example, the speaker from the village (86/6-R) uses the term 'kolu' "by" in sentence 3. In contrast, the speaker in the village (91/6-R) uses the postpositions 'to' and 'from' in phrase 4.

Speakers of the village (86/6-R) provided information about gender, but the speakers from the village (91/6-R) only showed the explicatory verb in their sentences. People in the village (86/6-R) use 'janii', and people in the village (91/6-R) use 'honii'.

Another example is given following:

5. Ohdy **kolo** akhbaar ni **parhiya** **jana** (Village 86/6 R)
   He by newspaper no read go
   He cannot read the newspaper.

6. Ohdy **tu** akhbaar ni parh **hona** (Village 91/6 R)
   He from newspaper no read go
   He cannot read the newspaper.

He cannot read the newspaper.

In sentence 5, the village speaker (86/6-R) uses the term 'jana,' whereas the village speaker (91/6-R) uses the word 'honaa.' In sentence 6, the village speaker (91/6-R) utilises the past verb 'parhiya' and the imperative case 'parh'. The speaker in sentence 5 of Village (86/6-R) provides information on the gender and the number of objects. Still, in sentence 6, the Village speaker (91/6-R) simply mentions the explicator verb.

7. Ehny ohi hisaab **banaiaa** **ay** (Village 86/6 R)
   This same way makes is
   He makes the same way.

8. Eh ohi hisaab banaai **khalaa** **ay** (Village 91/6 R)
   This same way make stand is
   He makes the same way.

In sentence 7, the village speakers (86/6-R) fail to use an explicator, however in sentence 8, the village speakers (91/6-R) utilise the explicator 'khalaa' in the same constructed phrase.

Words	Village (86/6-R)	Village (91/6-R)	Results
Main verb+ ø explicatory	15	0	15
Main verb + khalaa (explicatory)	9	0	9

Another variation pattern is observed at the place of the main verb and explicatory verb.

In the Sentences

Village (86/6-R)	Village (91/6-R)
1. Ashraf challa gia ai Ashraf leave go is Ashraf has gone.	1. Ashraf gia challa ay Ashraf go leave is Ashraf has gone.

The speakers of the village (91/6-R) use the extra syllable prior to the last syllable and after the primary verb. But speakers of the village (86/6-R) use the last syllable after the main verb.

The following table shows another exception where the addition of [va] sound is used.

Village (86/6-R)	Village (91/6-R)
1. Ohne ratti mehndi **laani** ai He red hina apply is He is going to apply red hina to his hair	**1.** Ohny ratti mehndi **lavaani** ai He red hina apply is He is going to apply red hina to his hair
2. Asi aj spray **pani** ai We today spray insert is We are going to spray our fields today	**2.** Asa aj spray **pavaani** ai We today spray insert is We are going to spray our fields today

The clear variation at the morpho-syntactic level is shown in sentences of speakers from Village A (86/6-R) and Village (91/6-R).

Some other variations can be seen in the following table, where the difference occurs at the last vowel of the main verb. The contrast can be seen in the positioning of 'lai, paro' in a sentence.

Village (86/6-R)	Village (91/6-R)
1. Tenu kam **lai** liyainda si You work for bring was You were brought for some work	**1.** Tenu kam **paaro** liyanda si You work for bring was You were brought for some work
2. Hisab **hoveiy** ga inspect to be will Inspect will be done	**2.** Hisab, **hoviey** ga inspect to be will Inspect will be done
3. O hisab **kare** ga He inspects do will He will do the inspect	**3.** O hisab **karoo** ga He inspects do will He will do the inspect

In sentences 1 and 2, speakers from 2 different villages use different morphemes for the same thing. Because both the words 'lai' and 'paaro' have the same meaning of 'for'. And in sentences 3,4,5,6, the different forms of the same verb are used. Speakers of the village (86/6-R) used the sound [ei] to end the verb in sentences, and speakers of the village (91/6-R) used the sound [u] to end the verb in sentences. These variations also show the phonological differences in their speaking.

Lexical Differences

Linguistic differences are an important feature in dialect differences among different speech societies. After the questionnaire, the results show a clear boundary between the dialects of both community speakers. It is observed that the speakers of village A have more tendency to speak more Urdu words in their communication, and the speakers of village B stick to the old Punjabi words rather than speakers of village A.

'kapray', "clothes," is a word used in the Urdu language, and the respondents with this word are 100% in the Village (86/6-R) and only 54% in the village (91/6-R). All the other speakers use the word "leray" in replacement of the word "kapray." another word, 'chabi' "key," comes from the Urdu language. The respondents of this word in Village A are 100%, in Village B, only 35%, and all the other speakers use the word "kunji" in place of 'chabi'. All these variations can vary according to the age group of the speakers.

Almost 75% of speakers from village B stick to old Punjabi words, remaining 25% use the words of the Urdu language because of their social interaction. The remaining 25% of speakers are students of college and school level, so that is why they use advanced vocabulary. Some of them interact with TV and media, so due to this, they hear the Urdu lexicons and use them in their speech.

Findings for lexical word "Shirt."

Two different words, "chaga" and "kurta," are

used for words by both the speech communities of the village (86/6-R) and the village (91/6-R). Both the vehicles are used in the Punjabi language. The speakers of village A are 100% of respondents of the word "kurta," but only 33% of the speakers of village B are respondents of the word "chaga". All 33% of speakers are youngsters and are students of college level and have a wider social context.

Words	Village (86/6-R)	Village (91/6-R)
Chagga	0	67%
Kurta	100%	0

Age Groups

Words	Village (86/6-R)	Village (91/6-R)	Results
Chagga	0	8	8
kurta	3	1	4

Group 1 (50+ age)

Words	Village (86/6-R)	Village (91/6-R)	Results
Chaga	0	5	5
kurta	5	4	9

Group 2 (25 to 40)

Words	Village (86/6-R)	Village (91/6-R)	Results
Chagga	0	7	7
kurta	7	2	9

Group 3 (18 to 24)

Findings for the word "Shawl."

In the case of the word "shawl," both speaking communities were divided between three words (dupatta, chunni, leera) used for the same variable, which is a shawl. The speakers of village A show a slight preference for the word "dupatta," which seems to refer to the Urdu language. The majority of speakers, 56% from village A, speak the word 'dupatta'. Another 35% use the word 'chuni', and the remaining 9% of speakers use the word 'leerra' in their speaking. But in village B, the speakers use the words dupatta and leerra with a percentage of 42 in each village, and the remaining 9% of speakers use the word chunni. Both villages hesitate to speak the more prestigious Urdu words in their daily life communication.

Words	Village (86/6-R)	Village (91/6-R)
Leerra	4(34%)	7(64%)
Dupatta	8(66%)	6(50%)
Chunni	3(40%)	6(70%)

Age Groups

Words	Village (86/6-R)	Village (91/6-R)	Results
Leerra	3	4	7
Dupatta	1	4	5
Chunni	3	1	4

Group 1 (50 + age)

Words	Village (86/6-R)	Village (91/6-R)	Results
Leerra	0	5	5
Dupatta	4	2	6
Chunni	4	2	6

Group 2 (25-40)

Words	Village (86/6-R)	Village (91/6-R)	Results
Leerra	4	4	8
Dupatta	3	4	7
Chunni	4	1	5

Group 3 (18-24)

Findings for the word "Lock."

The majority of speakers (73%) of the village (86/6-R) used the word "tala" as a replacement for the Punjabi word "jandra". However, the speakers of the village (91/6-R) use the original word "jandra" with a percentage of 58 of the community. However, this variation varies with the age groups of the speakers because the younger group uses more and more Urdu words in their communication. 60% of the speakers use Urdu words, and they are all youngsters. The dependency of using any word is based on the level of education of the other person.

Words	Village (86/6-R)	Village (91/6-R)
Tala	5(37%)	9(63%)
Jandra	12(83%)	8(57%)

Age Groups

Words	Village (86/6-R)	Village (91/6-R)	Results
Tala	3	6	9
Jandra	5	2	7

Group 1(50+ age)

Words	Village (86/6-R)	Village (91/6-R)	Results
Tala	4	1	5
Jandra	2	5	7

Group 2 (25 to 40)

Words	Village (86/6-R)	Village (91/6-R)	Results
Tala	4	3	7
Jandra	6	3	9

Group 3 (18 to 24)

Some other words like "sawa and hara" (green), "chabi and kunji" (key), "chita and baga" (white), and "ratta and laal" (red) are observed in both villages A and B. The more prestigious words, like "hara, chabi, chita, and laal," are observed in village A because the speakers of village A are more educated and have a wider social context than the speakers of village B. According to Shakel (1970), the use of English and Urdu language is based on the literacy level of people because illiterate people can't use Urdu and English words in their daily lives. It also may vary according to their age groups. All the speakers who belong to the age group of 50 & above used the original Punjabi words like "jandra, kunji, ratta, baga, and hara" in their speech. Then, all the speakers of the age group 25 to 40 use some Urdu words and some Punjabi words as they are in between, but all the youngsters who belong to the age group 18 to 24 use more prestigious and high-standard words in their communication, either they belong to the village (86/6-R) or Village (91/6-R). Both have wider social circles, so the clear variation can be seen in the dialects of both villages (86/6-R) and (91/6-R).

Findings

The variation in dialects is observed through different linguistic features like phonological variation, morpho-syntactic variation and lexical variations in both the villages. Some phonological items are seen, like [pɔ:t]vs [pat], [sɔ:t] vs [sat], and [tʃɔ:k] vs [tʃak]. The vowel sound [ɔː] is pronounced in Village (86/6-R), and the vowel sound [a] is pronounced in Village (91/6-R). some exceptions were there like the pronunciation of the [i] sound was also there.

Then, at the morpho-syntactic level, the variation in positioning of the explicatory and main verb is observed. The speakers of the village (86/6-R) speak the explicatory verb before the main verb, but the speakers of the village (91/6-R) use the explicatory verb after the main verb. In the speech of the village (86/6-R), the identification of gender and number of objects is clear, but in the communication of village (91/6-R) speakers, this is not as clear.

Then, in some words, the addition of playable [va] is observed in the speaking of the village (91/6-R) like "lavani, Pavani." Then, variation in the last vowel sound is observed in some variables spoken by speakers of the village (91/6-R), like "hovoo, karoo." But the verb gives the same meaning before and after changing. Then, at the linguistic level, some lexical examples are selected, like some items, for example, "sawa and hara, kurta and chaga, chabi and kunji, jandra and tala."

The data shows that the speakers of the village (86/6-R) use more prestigious words than the village (91/6-R). They are more educated than the village (91/6-R). and all these variations in all features depend upon the age groups of speakers of both the villages (86/6-R) and (91/6-R). The youngster groups of both the villages have wider social interaction, so they use advanced vocabulary in their daily life communication. And then variation in dialects of both the villages occur through all these features.

Conclusion

After deep analysis, this study concluded that dialect variations make a language more difficult to understand and speak. These variations make a language more prominent and more challenging with respect to other languages. Pakistan is a country that has unlimited dialects in many languages, which

makes variations in different regions and different religions, which is clearly highlighted in this present research. Every word has many pronunciations, which depends upon different dialects and on different regions. So, these words have different meanings in a language related to dialects.

After Analysis of the two regions' dialects, it can be concluded that all regions have particular dialects that act as their identity markers at many points, and this identity makes this region different from others in the perspective of its language.

Limitations and Further Research

This present study consists of two Pakistani villages that have dialects variations in them. Another limitation of this study is that it is the analysis of only villages based on dialect variations in communication. The researchers can use this study to help conduct further research.

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