REVIEW

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Parihar, Ravi & Amitabh Vikram Dwivedi (2019) *A Grammar of Sarazi*, Munich: Lincom Europa, 376 pp.

A Grammar of Sarazi studies an undocumented language, Sarazi, in a linguistic descriptive tradition. This language falls under the Indo-Aryan group of languages, spoken in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in the Republic of India. The reference book provides a comprehensive analysis of the structure of Sarazi and documents its linguistic grammar so that an independent status of Sarazi can be established. Further, the text aims at revitalizing this lesser known language and promoting its language identity. This is an original research which embodying its objectives, motivation and scope in lucid manner. The text is divided into eight chapters, which provides the readers with a detailed description of the linguistic features of the Sarazi language such as its phonology, morphology, syntax and its socio-linguistic aspects.

Chapter 1, 'Introduction' (p. 1-12), familiarizes the readers with the status of the Sarazi language, its geographical stretch and the speakers of the language. It is spoken in the Saraz region of the Doda[1] district. In addition to Sarazi, other languages spoken in the region are Bhadarwahi[2] and Bhalesi. The speakers of the language employ Arabic and Devanagari script to represent the sounds of Sarazi since Sarazi does not have an independent script. The authors propose the various regional varieties of Sarazi such as

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[1] Doda district is located on the Eastern side of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, India.
[2] Amitabh Vikram Dwivedi, *A Grammar of Bhadarwahi* (Munich: Lincom Europa, 2013).

Bhagwali, Korarwali, and Jathelwali (p. 3). They briefly discuss the data collection processes and the field trips undertaken for collecting language data.

In chapter 2, 'Literature Review' (p. 13-108), the authors propose a detailed account of the review process, incorporating various studies on Indo-Aryan languages. A number of techniques essential for conducting the field research are also discussed. The researchers offer an insight into the linguistic features (p. 16) of the Sarazi language which have not been previously described, thereby filling up the gaps in the existing literature. The text also helps in removing the incongruities and misrepresentations by some researchers, who labeled Sarazi as a dialect of Kashmiri rather than categorizing it as an independent language belonging to the Western Pahari[3] group of languages of the Indo-Aryan family. Further, special emphasis is laid upon the ethical issues that must be kept in mind while undertaking field research.

Due to non-availability of reliable Sarazi literature, the two field linguists depend on the primary data elicited from the targeted field sites. They also inform the readers about the three-fold *language of elicitation* (p. 93) employed in the study, such as Sarazi for the monolingual speakers; Hindi for the bilingual speakers; and English for the educated. The primary data of the text, *A Grammar of Sarazi*, includes the phonological and morphological components of the language through which the morpho-syntactic structure of the language is realized. The data of the text also helps in the formulation of new theories in the linguistic tradition.

Chapter 3, 'Research Methodology' (p. 109-130), explains in depth the various methods that were employed by the researchers to elicit data. The phonological analysis was carried out using a wide range of phonological processes, such as complimentary distribution, free variation and so on, while the morphological analysis employs the *word based description* method and the syntactic analysis adopts the *constructional approach* (p. 109). The authors also provide a detailed description of the geographical area selected for conducting the research to avoid any language variations. A basic vocabulary comprising of 1700 words is provided and a separate list containing Sarazi sentences are represented through the technique of data tagging (p.

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[3] A group of 17 languages spoken in the western Himalayan range of India.

119). The present study adopts a mixed method approach that combines qualitative and quantitative modes of research to answer the research questions that the study poses. Additionally, the linguists tell about the research objectives and research problems along with the limitations of the study.

Chapter 4, 'The Phonological Analysis of the Sarazi Sounds' (p. 131-165), deals with the different sound segments recorded in the Sarazi language and their nature is penned down successfully. Furthermore, the linguists establish the vowel and the consonant inventories along with appropriate examples depicting their occurrence at the three word positions; word initial, word medial, and word final respectively. At the phonological level, nasalization and aspiration are prominent features in the Sarazi language and the latter is observed both in voiced and voiceless consonants, which occur at all the word positions. However, there are certain exceptions too. For example, the aspirated consonants/d^h/, /g^h/ and /z^h/ never occur at word final positions (p. 141-142). The various consonant clusters in the Sarazi phonology are exhibited through a matrix depicting the co-occurrence of Sarazi consonants (p. 148). The researchers use various spectrograms and their formants, illustrating the sound waves of the vowels in the language for the purpose of speech analysis. The PRAAT[4] software is extensively used to record the speech segments available in Sarazi. The section that follows details the complete methodology employed to obtain the spectrograms (p. 157- 165).

Chapter 5, 'The Morphological Operations in Sarazi Words' (p. 166-202), aims at describing the morphological structure of the word classes in the Sarazi language. The researchers illustrate the nominal and verb morphology of Sarazi. Unlike Sanskrit,[5] Sarazi admits only two genders, that is: masculine and feminine (p. 166). As shown in Table 1, the masculine nouns in Sarazi take /-o/ affix marker at the word final position. Contrary to this, the feminine nouns mostly exhibit /-ɪ/ endings.

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[4] A computer software that scientifically analyzes speech sounds
[5] Sanskrit is an Indo-Aryan language that admits three grammatical genders: masculine, feminine and neuter as well as three numbers: singular, plural and dual.

S. No.	Masculine	Feminine
1.	/po:tro 'grandson'	/po:tri/ 'grand-daughter'
2.	/lɑːɽo/ 'groom'	/lɑɽi/ 'bride'

Table 1. Masculine and feminine nouns

Further, Sarazi has two numbers: singular and plural. The singular masculine nouns and singular feminine nouns take distinctive plural markers to form their corresponding plural nouns. Additionally, the authors examine the various auxiliary verbs that represent tense in Sarazi, and show verbal inflection for a number of verb roots. The root verbs take markers such as infinitive /-no/, imperfective participle /-tʃʰo/ and /-tʃʰɪ/, perfective participle /-o/ and /-ɪ/, and the causative /-ɑ̃ːɳo/ and /-wɑ̃ːɳo/. For instance, the root verb /tʃəl/ 'walk' shows the following inflection (p. 175-176).

	Root + Affix	Gloss
Infinitive	/tʃəl-no/	'to walk'
Imperfective Participle.M	/tʃəl-tʃʰo/	'walks'
Imperfective Participle.F	/tʃəl-tʃʰɪ/	'walks'
Perfective Participle.M	/tʃəl-o/	'walked'
Perfective Participle.F	/tʃəl-ɪ/	'walked'
Causative-I	/tʃəl-ɑːɳo/	'to make someone walk'
Causative-II	/tʃəl-wɑːɳo/	'to make someone make someone else walk'

Table 2. Verbal Inflection in Sarazi

Word formation processes such as affixation (prefix and suffix), compounding, inflection and derivation are illustrated through a number of the Sarazi words. The researchers also discuss the various strategies (p. 191-194) that are accountable for the formation of words in Sarazi. The grammatical aspects: habitual, progressive, perfective and imperfective are highlighted by the verb that reflects the temporal view of the action that is carried out. In addition, Parihar and Dwivedi also explain the alignment (p. 201) of the Nominative-Accusative and Ergative-Absolute paradigm (Figures 1 and 2) as seen in the *case* system of the Sarazi language. The linguists argue that the elicited data of Sarazi depicts consistent split ergative case marking pattern but only in the perfective aspect. They also pose the question 'why only perfective aspect exhibits

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ergative split form?'. This is still an open and unanswered question and could be the scope for further research.
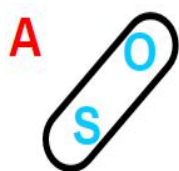

Figure 1. Ergative alignment   Figure 2. Accusative Alignment

Chapter 6, 'The Syntactic Structures of Sarazi' (p. 203-254), discusses in detail the syntactic constituents including the sentence typologies and the different kinds of sentences that Sarazi shows through constructional approach. A language with Subject-Object-Verb order of words, Sarazi exhibits three kinds of sentences: simple, compound and complex (p. 214-217). Syntactic agreement in Sarazi is realized for gender, number and person. While a number of other Indo-Aryan languages show subject-verb agreement, in Sarazi the agreement is gender and auxiliary based, where the main verb does not participate. Further, the following section aims at describing the grammatical cases found in Sarazi such as nominative, ergative, oblique, possessive, dative, absolutive, accusative and vocative; and identification of the various case markers: /-ɪ/, /-eĩ/, /-ʊĩ/, /jɑ/, /-o/, /-tɪ/, and /-to/ (p. 223) is presented as given in the following table. The authors discuss the three types of tenses in Sarazi: present, past and future. Also, the moods in Sarazi are *realis* mood which encapsulates the indicative mood; and *irrealis* mood which includes subjunctive, imperative, conditional and optative ones (p. 249-254).

S.No.	Case	Marker	Usage
1.	Nominative	Φ (Null)	/renʈɪ go:rʊ tʃɑr tʃʰi/ 'The girl grazes the cattle.'
2.	Accusative	/e:/,/o/, /ɑ/, /jɑ/	/mĩ məʈʈʰe: tʃe:ɽə ditjemi:/ 'I gave the boy a slap.'
3.	Instrumental	/səti/	/renʈɪ tʃəmtʃɪ səti roʈʈi kʰə̃j rəwo tʃʰi/ "The girl is eating food with a spoon.'
4.	Dative	/o/, /en/, /in/, /ɑ/	/mĩ rəme:ʃ-o ek kətɑ:b dɪtjemɪ/

5.	Ablative	/lə/	'I gave a book to Ramesh.'
			/so gʰər lə du:rt tʃəle ge:w/
			'He went far off from home.'
6.	Locative	/pʊʈʰ/, /trũɖje:ri/, /mã/, /mənz/, /mə/	/ʃɑ:ro mã səpp tʃʰo/
			'There is a snake in the field.'
7.	Genitive	/-to/, /-ti/	/rɑ:dʒʊ-to bu:ʈ kole tʃʰo/
			'Where is Raju's shoe?'
8.	Vocative	/o:/, /oj/, /ve:/, /oʊ/	/məʈʈʰo: nəʃa səpp nɪso tʃʰo/
			'Boys! Run away, the snake has appeared.'

Table 3. Case markers in Sarazi

Chapter 7, Sociolinguistic Aspects in Sarazi' (p. 255-315), highlights concerns such as the mother tongue of the native speakers of the Saraz region and questions the claim of previous researchers about Sarazi being a dialect of Kashmiri. Illustrations are presented in the form of histograms and tables based on data elicited through the means of self designed questionnaires. Further, the researchers have chosen Jodhpur and its adjoining villages as the research site and have standardized the Sarazi that is spoken there in order to obtain its uniform accent. This chapter emphasizes on the annual festivals (p. 264-267) celebrated in the Saraz region as well as the childhood games (p. 306-312) commonly played by the children of Saraz. The authors note that these games were extensively played in the recent past. Nowadays, these games as well as their linguistic registers have lost their significance, as they are hardly being played. Due to exposure to internet world and the advent of online games, the regional games have become obsolete. They also stress upon the need for documenting and promoting the language thereby revitalizing it through the means of Sarazi literature publications, increased cultural performances, radio and television programs and putting efforts to get recognition in the Constitution of India as Dogri[6] and Kashmiri[7] have received.

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[6] Formerly treated as a dialect of Punjabi, Dogri was recognized as a scheduled language in the Indian Constitution in 2003. It belongs to the Western Pahari group of the Indo Aryan language family and is spoken widely in the Union Territory of Jammu &Kashmir, India.

[7] Kashmiri is a Dardic language spoken in Union Territory of Jammu &Kashmir, India and also occupies a place in the list of the scheduled language as per the Indian Constitution.

Chapter 8, 'Conclusion' (p. 316-323), summarizes the findings of the research work carried out by Parihar and Dwivedi in order to bring Sarazi, an undocumented language into the light of the linguistic world. The text serves as a descriptive grammar of the Sarazi language by documenting the phonology, morphology, syntactic and socio-linguistic aspects of Sarazi. It gives a synchronic account of the grammar of the Sarazi language and establishes Sarazi as an independent language that falls under the Western Pahari group of Indo-Aryan family rather than classifying it as a dialect of Kashmiri. Moreover, the reference book also explores the matter of language attrition since a major language shift is observed by the researchers in the region of Saraz and this research is an attempt on the part of the researcher to save the Sarazi language from facing extinction.

Conclusively, *A Grammar of Sarazi* serves as an important document in the field of linguistics and may be archived as a long-term record for the coming Sarazi generations since it is an endangered language[8]. The published research shall help in the promotion of the language and is a must read for the anthropological linguists, the field linguists and the armchair linguists alike.

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[8] According to UNESCO, an endangered language is one whose speakers have ceased to use it, its use in communicative domains is decreasing and it has also ceased to pass from one generation to the next.

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