

A Comparative Study of Metathesis in Lasi and Romani LanguageGhulam Mustafa¹, Sami Ullah Khan², Shabana Sartaj³, Illahi Bakhsh^{*4}**Original Article**

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Abstract

The objective of this paper is to find the comparative metathesis sounds occurring in Lasi (Sub dialect of Sindhi) and Romani. However, these languages are linked to Indo-European branch of Indo Aryan. Metathesis is sub-process of phonological process, which is specifically comparatively Metathesis into Romani and Lasi, which is thoroughly investigated through optimality theory and feature geometry. This paper focuses on comparative phonological variations to stirring in Romani and Lasi. The findings shows that the phonological rules of Lasi which are not accepted in Romani language. The finding also confirms that design of the Romani in the metathesis, Romani speakers reverse the order of segments whenever a breathy voiced consonant occurred.

Keywords: Metathesis, Lasi, acquisition, Optimality Theory, Second language

1. Introduction

This paper investigates metathesis of Romani contrasted with Lasi, as metathesis in language is the general peculiarity and each language has its particular phonological standards and limits however, the two distinct varied speakers of dialect come into interaction, they force over the other its phonological standards, though any recipient language does not require to adjust to the principals of the source language. Herein research, Lasi is viewed as the source and Romani as the objective language. Cross linguistically, Phonological cycles are a typical process.

1.1 Phonological Processes

Phonological processes are alterations in sounds in related words adopted by a language and are part of the phonology of a language. Phonological processes are unconscious knowledge of a native speaker about his/her language and these processes are not under conscious control of speakers (Spencer, 1996). Phonological processes have been categorized as instances of lenition, fortition, assimilation, dissimilation, insertion, metathesis, and the majority of sound changes—many more—are driven by phonetic considerations. Several of these procedures take place within words, while others take place outside of word level hanging phonological structure of a word or a phrase (ibid, p. 201).

1.2 Metathesis

It is a Greek word which means transposition. It is a process in which the segments switch places with each other. Hume (2001) has reported that in certain languages under some specific conditions, sounds switch positions with each other; this process is called metathesis. Spencer (1996) accounts that metathesis is a type of speech error and is also present in child phonology,

almost in all world languages. The process could involve any of these types e.g. CC, CV, VC or VV. The VV metathesis is very complicated to be observed at surface representation (Buckley, 2011).

1.3 Romani Language

Romani language belongs to the Indo-European Family of Indo-Aryan group. Romani population speaks Romani language, which is today not exist in Asia but present in America and Europe. Romani language is typically supposed to being a Central Indo Aryan. The language of the Romani is the first observable symbol of the Romani inhabitants. Language helps us understand the complex history of the Wanderers. In spite of the fact that the ancestors of adventurers were historically distinct from those in Europe in terms of ethnicity and culture, a comparison between the spoken languages of nomads and Sanskrit was made in the vicinity of philology in the 18th century. The primary cause for Wanderers leaving their innate property is unidentified, and the timing of the immense movement is similarly mysterious. The early experiences of the gypsies left without Identification. The primary existing dialects of India, who became detached after them during the next half of the first thousand years CE, are particularly tied to the language (Matras, 2011, p.1). In great part during this time, the Romani population in India began to depart. They eventually made it to southern Europe and Anatolia, and a short while later they scattered across the different regions of the European land.

Romani language is used by Roma people tend to particular Indo-Aryan (connected to Bengali, Panjabi, Kashmiri, Hindi, Saraiki and Sindhi) that has been vocalized absolutely in Europe since the Medieval times.

For a variety of reasons, it is impossible to assume that Romani and NIA are fundamentally connected. According to Turner (1926), Romani has a variety of sounds that it shares with all Central Indo-Aryan languages, rather than just one. Consequently, Romani language is indeed not closely related to any particular Central Indo Aryan.

As Miklosic, suggested that the Romani people originally settled in Persia & Afghanistan, wherever Romani stayed for a substantial time. Romani eventually crossed the border from Iran to Armenia, Greek, Istanbul, and Constantinople. A second group of Romani went to Spain, Northern Africa, Jordan, and Damascus. The European Romani were divided into thirteen groups by Miklosic.

1.4 Sindhi Language

Sindhi language is an Indo Aryan with Indo-European ancestry (Jatoi, 1996; Jennifer, 2006). This Linguistic group can be categorized in three main levels of progress, Old Indo Aryan, or Sanskrit; Middle Indo Aryan, containing of Apabhramsha and Prakrit stages; and NIA, which dates from about the 10th century CE. Sindhi is assumed to have progressed particularly from the Vrachada dialect of the Prakrit language. The native tongue of Sindh, a province of Pakistan at the moment, is Sindhi. Most of Sindhi speakers are concentrated in Sindh. The remaining speakers are found around many areas of the world (mostly other parts of India) to which members of an ethnic group travelled when Sindh came to be a part of Pakistan through the parting of India in 1947. There are six main dialects of the Sindhi language (Keerio, 2010).

1. Vicholi, middle most, a standard and central dialect of Sindh, centered on Hyderabad.
2. Thareli or Thari, communicated in Thar Desert, the east end of Sindh and in western India.
3. Lari, it is spoken in the lower Sindh delta and coastal regions, in Laru, centered on Karachi and lower Sindh.
4. Saraiki, it is spoken in Siro and upper Sindh, i.e., centered on Jacobabad.

5. Kachhi, it is spoken in the Rann of Kutch regions; there are many Kachhi speakers in Karachi, Sindh.
6. Lasi is spoken in the Kohistan and Lasbela regions in Balochistan; Lasi has impact from neighboring languages like Balochi etc.

1.4.1 Lasi Dialect

In the Lasbela region, the Lasi dialect is used. The main tongue in the district of Lasbela is indeed a variant of Sindhi known as Lasi (Grierson, 1919, p.158). Up till 1954, Lasbela was already in the imperial state. On June 30, 1954, this one was separated off Kalat as just a result of gaining regional autonomy. The title is a combination of the phrases Las, which means plain, and Bela, which means wilderness. The area is providing its lines to Gwadar and Awaran in the southwest, to Sindh Area in the eastern, as well as to Khuzdar in the north.

This area covers an area of 7,048 sq miles (18,254 sq km) in southeastern Balochistan, due to a broad seashore to the south (Hazara, 2011). The Lasi dialect is not the equal as various dialects. Baloch states that the language certainly has individual variations and regional influences (Baloch, 2008, p. 73). Strategic, social, rigorous, didactic, and downright literal, Lasbela has transformed into his voice work Sindhi. Basically, Sindhi language spoken in Lasbela, named by way of Lasi dialect (Allana, 1995).

1.5 Objectives of the study

The purpose of this study is to identify and investigate metathesis along with phonological changes and why Romani phonemes change compared to Raj. To the researchers' knowledge, his work on Lasi metathesis using optimality theory (has not yet been done in Romani. Our interest and goal are to find and explain metathesis comparatively in the language of optimality theory.

1.6 Research Questions

The current research challenges to answer the subsequent Questions:

1. Is metathesis effective in Romani's language?
2. Why does this metathesis occur?
3. How does Romani differ from Lasi with respect to this metathesis?

1.7 Delimitations of the study

The nature of this study is purely phonological. It deals only with the metathesis changes which occur in the Romani as compared to Lasi. What happens in the other varieties of Sindhi language in the phonological processes is not a topic of discussion in this study.

1.8 Research Methodology

The Lasi dialect associated to Romani by way of the subject of the current study. The researcher speaks the Sindhi dialect of Lasi. The researcher will use an online Angloromani dictionary for the Romani language:

<http://romani.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/angloromani/dictionary.html>. The researcher will collect Angloromani data form dictionary for completion of this research. This research is limited to the metathesis only.

1.9 Significance of the study

This study plans to analyze the metathesis occurring in the Romani language as compared to Lasi. This is the first work of its nature which analyses phonological processes at segmental level in Romani. It aims to investigate the reasons behind those changes. According to the

knowledge of researcher, research on Lasi has been conducted on its various aspects but a gap in phonological realm in Lasi motivated me as researcher to work on it, this is the first study of its nature which explains the phonological procedures (metathesis) of Romani by way of related to Lasi dialect. No study has been conducted comparatively regarding phonological or other aspects of both languages before this Research. The study would determine the reasons of differences and add new aspect in the world of phonological research. This study will be an immense contribution for both language speakers in general and for researchers on both languages. It would be a novel experience that will let several options to the contemporary as well as future researchers.

2. Literature Review

Metathesis is a Greek word which means transposition. The origin of word metathesis is linked to the Latin term “metatithenia” means ‘to phrase’. Metatithenia has two parts: “Meta” that stand for “beyond /over” and “tethenia” means ‘to replace’ (Thompson and Thompson, 1969, p. 35). In this phonological process two sounds (usually adjacent) switch their places. Metathesis refers to an alteration in the sequence of two sections. It has happened occasionally across languages in diachronic sound change or synchronic variation. As per Hume’s opinion, Metathesis is a term used in linguistics to refer to the switch of elements in a word or sentence” (Hume, 1998, p. 148). According to Hume (2001), metathesis is a term that denotes the exchange of two elements in a syllable, word or sentence. Metathesis can be divided into two classes: long distance and local metathesis, depending on whether the procedure takes place between the adjacent segments or not. Many kinds of metathesis are observed in the world languages like VV, CV and CC metathesis. “Metathesis as a type of speech error and is a common characteristic of child phonology, frequently occurs in whole languages” (Spencer, 1996, p. 68). Metathesis takes place when the order of segments changes, for example in Gondi (Kulkarni, 1976, p. 45). Metathesis is described as “The process whereby sounds appear to exchange places with one another in certain languages, under certain conditions,” (Hume, 2001, p. 1). Metathesis is the phenomenon that reorders or transposes sound sequence or two sounds usually next to each other (Napoli, 1996, p. 87). Though metathesis is typically defined as an unpredictable and irregular sound change, Hock (1985) and others have described that metathesis frequently brings about ideal syllable structures or serves to repair phono-tactically unlawful arrangements / sequences. VV metathesis is very rare and difficult to analyze at surface representation (Buckley, 2011). Further, he has stated that metathesis takes place when DEP (do not epenthesis) and MAX (do not delete) both of which are faithfulness constraints are ranked higher in a language. These do not allow changes to occur, while LINEARITY which does not allow reordering of segments is ranked lower than MAX and DEP. These two processes may serve to solve the problem, but as higher ranked constraints should be satisfied, so metathesis takes place by violating lower ranked constraint LINEARITY.

Chomsky and Halle (1968, p. 361) Metathesis illustrate as “a perfectly common phonological process,” and authorize alterations that effect permutation. In their representation metathesis in Faroese, /Skt/! —————> [kst], could be articulated as appeared below. Metathesis as an alternation, basic depiction s k t

Structural transformation 1 2 3 —————> 2 1 3

(1)				
C C	XY	→	YX Persian (Ahmedkhani, 2010)	
	(i) taksi	→	taski	taxi
VC	VC	→	CV Leti (Hume, 1998)	
	(i) Morut-kdieli	→	Mortukdjeli	"very curly hair"
	(ii) Ukar-ppalu	→	ukrappalu	thumb/ Index finger"
CV	CV	→	VC Rotuman (Buckley, 2011)	
	(i) Hosa	→	hoas	flower
	(ii) Hula	→	Hual	Moon
	(iii) Tiko	→	Tiok	Flesh

In Gondi (Kulkarni, 1976, p. 45)

(i)	kabdur +aN	→	kabudraN	pigeons
(ii)	datVan +aN	→	dataVnaN	tooth cleaning sticks

3. Research Methodology

Investigate philosophy is a method for figuring out replies to explore inquiries. Research methodology is a strategy that provides a precise method for noting the examination issue. It gives logical approach to examining; how an examination is directed deductively. Research system is the foundation of the review. In this exploration essential information is gathered by the specialist as a local speaker of Lasi, spoken in Lasbela Balochistan. The exploration is a clear and scientific sort of study, which characterizes, expounds and investigations its discoveries subjectively. For Romani, additional word references were found and examined, and the most recent literature, including Romani treatises and dictionaries, was consulted. Researchers determine alike Romani language words in English spelling & sense from Romani word source connected to Lasi. The optimality hypothesis was used to decipher and analyze the phoneme differences between Lasi and Romani, and to examine and analyze the results. It is the utmost practical instrument in phonologic research and is used in numerous belongings of phonologic research. research around the world. There are numerous speculations to depict and examine information, in which highlight math and Optimality Hypothesis are vital as Both are momentarily characterized in the accompanying segments.

3.1 Optimality Theory

The collected data analyzed through Optimality theory. OT is very helpful to analyze the ranking of any language. OT is a hypothesis that depicts in what way a language settles its phonologic contentions. Optimality is the phonetic hypothesis of 1990s. Optimality theory is planned as together phonetic speculations comprising an info & production. The information drives a few phases to provide an out put, which some of the time isn't as the information is. OT have a generator and an evaluator and makes sense of the connection among information and result through a total method. The generator (GEN) that produces various expected contender for an information, and the accompanying component, the evaluator (EVAL), picks the most beneficial and efficient decision while dismissing the rest. The supplementary outline denotes this process.

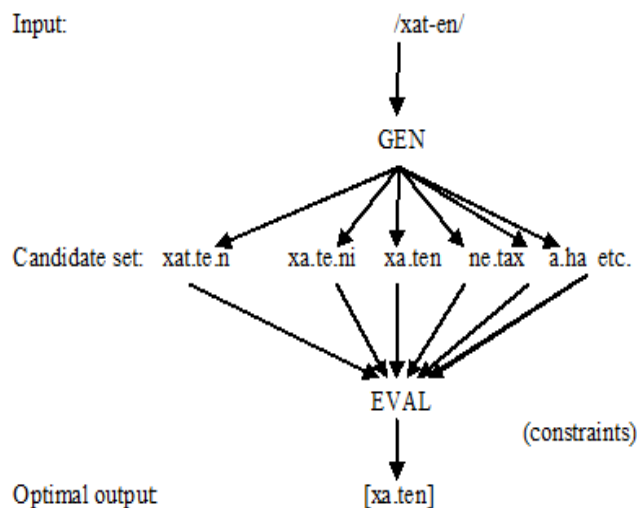


Figure.: Optimality Theory scheme by Archangeli, (1997)

By way of illustrated in diagram beyond, GEN is a originator that generates various applicants by addition, syllabifying or removing. Generator is allowed to create by way of numerous applicants while they want, but it's crucial that they are relevant to the input. Each of these candidates must meet a number of requirements. EVAL is the process used to choose the best applicant. The candidate with the fewest violations is chosen for this procedure by EVAL, which ranks the violable restrictions. The violations of the lower ranked limitations may be taken into account to break ties amongst contenders.

3.2 Feature Geometry

Features are the basis of feature geometry. In feature geometry, the distinguishing characteristics, such as those of position and voicing, are expressed hierarchically. The arrangement of phonologic features according to hierarchy construction is known as feature geometry (Davenport, Hannahs, 2013). These traits were separated into various nodes by Clements and Hume (1995), for example. Laryngeal, nasal, oral, vocalic, and so on. The feature tree from Clements and Hume (1995) copied below.

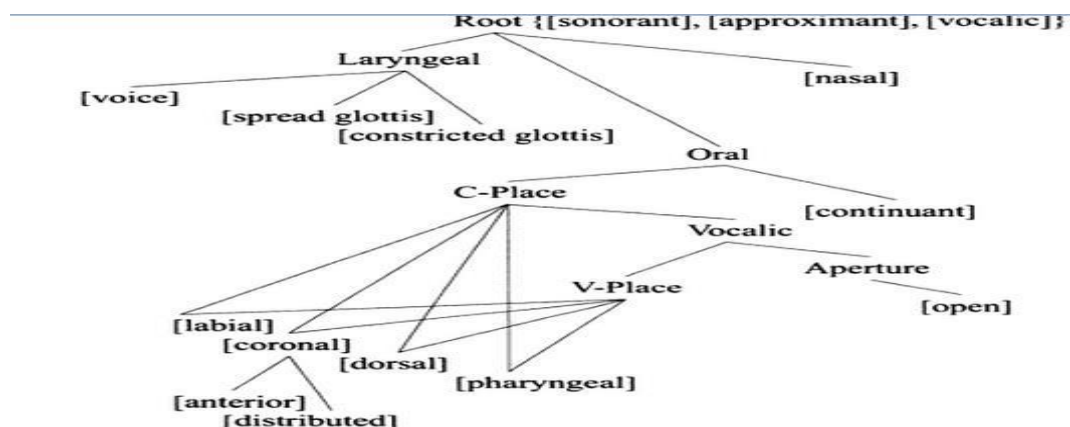


Figure 3.1: A Tree of Feature Geometry

By the tree over, the root contains all functions. The local nodules, larynx, and buccal cavity are intermediate-class nodules, which also have the characteristics of the larynx: voice, narrow glottis, and widened glottis. Each node creates a single level. The nose trait is uniquely linked to the root node and has no other subordinate elements. FG is used by phonologists worldwide to describe the phonological processes that occur in language. In other words, this version of feature geometry improves on the complexity of the feature geometry typical offered by Chomsky & Halle (1968) and makes it easier to understand. This version provides a brief description of the data of the current study.

4. Data Analysis & Presentation

Romani emigrated from various parts of the world. Romani is a language of Roma people, and it is an Indo-Aryan language like Sindhi. Analysis of the information to show the metathesis of Lasi and Romani. The collected data of Lasi spoken in Lasbela district balochistan are analyzed using optimality theory and feature geometry.

4.1 Metathesis

Romani as compared to Lasi has metathesis where breathy voiced occurred in Lasi, play a vital role in metathesis. In the following examples, Romani speakers reverse the order of segments whenever a breathy voiced consonant occurred. The following data is showing these illustrations.

(1)

Sindhi	Romani	Etymology	Sanskrit	Prakrit	Meaning
ḥibha	Chib	Chib	Jihva	Jibbha	Tongue
poṛho	Poro	Phuro	Prauḍha	Pavuḍha	Old
ḥadho	Pand	Phand	Baddha	Baddha	Tie
māṇḥú	Mannush	Manus	mānuṣa	maṇusa	Human

These examples are explained using OT language. First, the relevant constraint is defined by the lines:

*BV (no breathy voiced sounds): voiced segment + h cluster is prohibited

*IMP (no implosive sounds): implosive consonants are prohibited

LINEARITY: "No Metathesis" (McCarthy & Prince, 1995)

Tableau 4.1: Metathesis

[ḥibha]	*BV	*Imp	IDENT /h/	LIN
a. ḥibha	*!			
b. ḥihab		*!		
c. ḥib			*!	
d. chib				*

In the above tableau, it is shown the process of the metathesis of segment /h/ occurs. The winner candidate (d) does not violate high ranked constraints. It violates on linearity, a constraint, which is violated in metathesis. Applicant (a) fails to be optimal because this one not followed high-ranked constraint no breathy voiced. Constraint *BV demands the dialect to avoid voiced segment+ /h/

sequence. Candidate (b) fails to be optimal because this one disobeys high ranking limitation *IMP. Constraints *IMP requires the language to prevent implosive. Applicant (c) fails to be optimal as it disobeys high placed Constraint IDENT /h/. To satisfy the constraint a speaker exchange places. In all above metathesis examples, speakers did not pronounce breathy voiced. The ranking in both languages is as following.

Constraint ranking of Romani *BV, *IMP>> IDENT /h/>>LIN

Constraint ranking of Lasi LIN>> IDENT /h/>>*BV, *IMP

5. Summary

This paper presents the metathesis that comparatively happened between Romani and Lasi. Researcher began questions with respect to metathesis in Romani. A few gathered words of Romani language analyzed that are used in Lasi dialect. The investigation was done through with optimality Hypothesis. A few phonological cycle instances discovered in Romani, was introduced in sub segment. A few illustrations of classification were placed in optimality theory to be examined & talked about. In tableau detailed discussion is presented. Potential foundations for phonological changes of source language words are depicted next to every model. The research is related about connection of restrictions of Lasi & Romani phonology. In current research Lasi is dealt the source & Romani is the objective language.

5.1. Findings

Analysis indicates that the phonological process used by Romani speakers was the metathesis of selected corpora. In the metathesis process, Romani speakers reverse the order of segments when encountering breathtaking voiced consonants. All languages have their specific phonologic rules. Arguments introduced from single language into alternative remain unchanged if the latter language has the same structure as the previous language. Odd segments/clusters of a language may undergo adaptations to that language if similar structures are not available. The similar conduct that researcher create in this research. The Lasi dialect, that is dissimilar after the Roma corpus, has undergone various changes. In short, researchers can say that the lack of some specific segments, functions, and expressions are prominent causes of the changes that occur in Romani.

5.2. Suggestion for Further Research

The research was limited to phonological processes of Romani compared to Lasi. Another research of the same nature can be done to investigate the processes in other languages.

This study focuses only Lasi as a source language while Romani shares several phonological processes with Kashmiri, Saraiki, Punjabi, Sindhi, Hindi, and Dardic Languages. As well so research can be conducted on phonological processes of more than one language to find out either the same processes are active in other languages or not.

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