



## GRAMMATICAL FEATURES OF BHALESI DIALECT

**\*SADAKET ALI**

*\*Researcher*

### **ABSTRACT**

*Bhalesi is a dialect which is spoken in the trio tehsils Gandoh, Chilly Pingaland Kahara of Doda District. It is a western pahari dialect and comes under the ambit of the Western Pahari classification given by the First Linguistic survey of India by G A Grierson. Bhalesi has some unique features which makes it's a different dialect among all the other dialects spoken in the erstwhile Doda in Jammu and Kashmir. Bhalesi has a unique grammer, vowel system, preposition. The dialect of Bhalesi is divided into two sub dialects like Northern dialect and Southern Sub dialect.*

**KEY-WORDS:** Bhalesi, Western pahari, G A Grierson, Gandoh, Chilly Pingal, kahara, Doda

### **INTRODUCTION**

Bhalesa lies 32° 57' 50.50" N 75° 58' 48.88" E. There are most famous mountain peaks/Dhars in Bhalesa like Mehlwar Pass, which rise to a height of 7705 ft. above sea level. The area is endowed with vast wealth of natural beauty and resources. Full with natural endowments, scenic splendor, places of tourist interest, Worship, round the year snow claded mountain peaks and challenging tracks allure the adventurers and trekkers. The area has good potential for tourism including pilgrim and adventure tourism, The Kalgoni Temple, DurgaMaa shrine at Tipri khaljugasar deserve special mention here. owing to its captivating scenic splendor, pilgrim centres and lofty mountain peaks. Unfortunately, there area is in shambles due to unexploration. The area need to be explored.

In these areas there is lot of snow fall during the winter season and the summer is as pleasant as Kashmir. These places are worth visiting in the winters for enjoying the Snowfall specially.

Due to its varying physical features, Bhalesa does not have a uniform climate. The climate is temperate Average rainfall in area and other parts of Doda have been recorded as 35.08 inches per year which is lowest as compared to other areas of Jammu Division. Due to low average annual precipitation, the area has been declared as Drought prone.

Bhalesa is a region consisting of the trio tehsils of Gandoh, Chilly pingal, and Kahara in Doda District of Jammu and Kashmir. The area has a distinct cultural canvas as is evident from the languages/ dialects spoken widely here. The area of Bhalesa practice bilingualism besides Bhalesi, there is a Kashmir too spoken by the people and both the Bhalesi and Kashmiri are linked languages between the varying communities. Bhalesa is a wide area which since time immemorial remained a part of the BhaderwahJagir, the jagir of Raja Amar Singh of Bhaderwah. Bhalesa was once a paragona of Bhaderwah. Now it has its distinct cultural identity and language. The Bhalesi is grooming as a language now owing to its own grammer and distinct culture.

Bhalesa region is a multilingual Kashmir is also spoken widely. Besides the Bhalesi being a pahari dialect of the area. Bhalesi has its own Rich words and plathora of grammer. It is listed in the First linguistic survey of India volume IX. Bhalesi dialect has some similiarities with Bhaderwahi but has its own distinct phonology. Bhalesi is widely mentioned in the studies conducted by P K Kaul, Petterhook and Ghrambelley. The people belonging to Bhalesa (GandohBhalesa, Chilly Pingal, Jitota, Neeli, BathriChanga, Khaljugasar, AlniGingota, Basnota, and Kahara Tehsils speak Bhalesi and it is evident that its people are pahari speaking People (PSP).

However, Bhalesi comes under the umbrella of Indo Aryan languages and are enjoying the same right as provided to the himachili, Pothwari, Kangri and others. The unique feature of Bhalesipahari language is that it is spoken by all the communitiies.e both Hindus and Muslims so it is a link language between the two communities. Bhalesi practice distinct Pahari Culture and are more closely related to the Pahari languages spoken in Himachal Pradesh and Bhaderwahi.

The Bhalesi dialect is surrounded by the other pahari languages like Chinali, Pangwali and Chambeali to the south east, Padri to the north east, Sarazi to the west and Bhaderwahi respectively to south.

The Bhaderwahi and Bhalesidiffers in the area of preponderance of diphthongs, the dropping of /l/ between vowels, for example in Bhalesi we pronounce black as /Kalo/ in comparison to Bhaderwah we call it /Kao/.

Bhalesi is spoken in trio tehsils of Gandoh, Chilly pingal and Kahara and some parts of Thathri sub division. The trio tehsils of Bhalesa sub division enjoying distinct cultural and ethno linguistic identity and common language features. The Pahari Speaking People of Bhalesa are both the communities and both csn speak this language well. Since Bhalesi is a lingua franca of Bhalesa.

The common feature of cultural heritage of Bhalesa includes sharing of Common brotherhood The area is having mixed culture. Besides PahariBhslesi, people are speaking several other dialects, viz Mixed Kashmiri, Gojri. The Bhalesi is a common and linked language of the area. "Kod" is a popular cultural festival celebrated in Bhalesa. Kod and its own folklore. Other festivals are "Panyaou" "kanchoth" "Basow" "Dikhneen""Malchay" "Rang", BhejaMela of Beerdevsthan is the Biggest Night mela of District Doda held at BhejaBhalesa besides KalgoniMela. Gujjar and Bakarwals are nomads.Like the Guddies they come down to plain and barren areas of Punjab during winter. During summer they go deep in the mountainous valley of Bhalesa. The Bhalesi has rich words dictionary of its own and can be groomed so as to overcome from the list of definetely endangered status. ItsPahari Shape and family need to be retained and its script need to be revived.

Bhalesi is a dialect spoken in the northern portion of Bhadarwah, a himalayan territory situated in Jammu-Kashmir. Bhalesi is a frontier dialect, lying in the immediate vicinity of many Pahar and Kashmiri dialects, indicating some parallel dialectical tendencies. Thus the dialect betrays the tendencies to vocalic Umlaut, which is a distinctive feature of the formation of plural, a phenomenon somewhat parallel to the Umlaut of vowels so predominant in Kashmiri. Owing to its isolated geographical position, Bhalesi is an eminent pattern of dialectical preservations and innovations. Thus its vocabulary as preserved, in a slightly modified form, the Sanskrit word [vantah] ni'. Developed into Bhalesi [bafh] 'barren,' while Bhalesi[ jAkkori] ' a female calf, well-developed ' preserves Skr. [sakvari] a cow, occurring in the Atharvaveda (cf. p. 62). Siddeshwer Sharma a noted linguist and a writer undertook in 1928 a linguistic tour to Bhalessa. Some rudimentary features of the

Bhalesi, dialect have been described in the Linguistic Survey of India, Vol IX Part IV, but no systematic investigation of the dialect on the spot had

hitherto been made. But side by side with this series of words, there is another series in which the word for the territory of Bhalessa is bhal, while the Bhalesi dialect is either called simply 'bhali or 'bhah -gAlla. Now the etymology of this word bhal is obscure. It may go back to the Skr. word bhall-'good '. Locally it is known as Bhaleymanus or Bhaleylogoonka des.

## 2. TWO SUB-DIALECTS OF BHALESI.

Siddeshwerma noticed in Bhalessa two sub-dialects, one spoken in the South, the centre of which is the village Kalhotran, the other spoken in the North, the centre of which is the village Jakyas. The following are a few distinctive

The vowel system of the Northern dialect indicates a tendency to glides or diphthongal vowels of delicate pronunciation like i: i, cf. past participles. Now it is clear that Bhalesi dialect has different lexical tendencies in northern and southern portions it may be in Neeli area it is somewhat slightly different from what is spoken in Jakyas or chilly pingal. Not too much dissimilarity we find but atleast in pronunciation we northern Bhalesi differ from southern one in terms of vowels and past participles. The comparative analysis of the different dialects has been made by the different linguists like G A Grierson who conducted extensive study of more than 367 languages of india. A british ICS officer and the head of the First linguistic survey of India (LSI), he has spared a chapter in its Volume 9 part 4 that Bhalessi being different from Bhaderwahi to the huge extent but comes under the chain of Bhaderwahi-Bhalesi-Padri classified under the western Pahari grouping of Indo aryan language system. The Bhalessi, Bhaderwahi, Padri Sarazi Pougali, Gadi, Deshwali are the other dialects near to the Bhalesi. The Other languages adjoining to Bhalesi are Pangwali, Chameali spoken in Pangi and Chamba where we enter a language chain of himachali, Kangri, Lahuli and the indogenous culture of Himachal Pradesh.

Bhalesi is spoken by both the communities of Bhalessa, i.e Tehsil Bhalessa, Tehsil Chilly pingal and Tehsil Kahara where it has a connection with Bhaderwahi and Bonjwali Padri and Sarori dialects. Bsbjwali is spoken in Bonjwah area, Saroori in Saroor and Padri being a part of Bhaderwahi Bhalesi Padri chain is spoken in saffron valley of Padder. Padder is a rich land and padri has reached its extinction due to non seriousness by the speakers and non adoption by the government authorities. Same is happening to the Bhalesi dialect, it is an endangered dialect and is reaching extinction due to lack of minority status, Pahari speaking status for it.

Bhalesi has more than 90,000 speakers, both hindus and Muslims and is not adopted so far. The Central Institute of Indian Languages and other organisations like Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art Culture and languages has not yet established a separate section for Bhalesi. Bhalesi has not even been granted minority language status, 4 percent Pahari reservation to its people. The people of Bhalessa are veering for adoption, enrichment and propagation of Bhalesi. The indogenous language movement is in place to grant this sweet language a minority status, 4 percent reservation in Jobs, Pahari hostels, special economic package and scholarships.

With regard to the survey and census this language is excluded. The pahari speaking Board of Jammu and Kashmir need to conduct fresh survey of pahari dialects like Bhalesi, Bhaderwahi, Padri, SaraziPougali, Gadi and Deshwali.

The fact that all the areas the entire region of chenab valley right from PogalParistan to Padder and Bhalessa comes under the language classification of western pahari as elucidated in the Linguistic surveys of India and other books.

Bhalesi is an indo Aryan language spoken in trio tehsils of Gandoh, Kahara and Chilly Pingal a region which is located in erstwhile chenab valley of Jammu and Kashmir.

As per the George Ibrahim Grierson, linguistic survey of

India appointed by the british government Bhalesi is classified under western Pahari besides Bhaderwahi, Padri, Poguli and Serazi. The serazi has been kept in the Kashmiri as well as in western pahari to some extent by some linguists.

The UNESO has described majority if these dialects as definitely endangered languages of western Pahari.

Bhalesi as enunciated by the Grierson and other linguists of the time is a dialect spoken widely in Bhalessa (trio tehsils of Bhalessa - Gandoh, Chilly Pingal, Kahara and Basnota. As the thegieiersons classification of the langauges the Bhalesi has been put in the category of the Western Pahari -Bhaderwahi group. The Bahderwahi group includes (Bhaderwahi-Bhalesi and Padri) keeping in view the lexical similarities of these dialects. Padri is spoken widely in Paderara of District Kishtwar whereas Bhaderwahi is sponed in Bhaderwah and Bhalessi in a wide area of three tehsils mentioned above.

There is a lexical similarity of these dialects of the western Pahari. The UNSECO -United Nations Social educational and cultural organisation (an international body of the United Nations) has kept these dialects under the definitely endangered languages of the western pahari. The dialects are indeed the definitely engendered due to the lack of the wide study of these dialects. Besides this, the dialects have been a prey of the political exploitation by the politicians and policy makers at large.

As per the figures available to the author, the census 1909 has given the details of BhaderwahiBhalessi and Padri. According to Census 1901 Bhaderwahi and Bhalessa has a total no of 20977 Pahari Speaking People meaning thereby they speak Bhaderwahi and Bhalesi. Whereas the padri had 4540 people who spoke Pahari at that time.

Bhalessa lies to the east of the Bhalessa which has been in close proximity with each other. The Bhalesi dialect is closely connected with the Bhaderwahi. The main difference is that Bhalesi is found of dropping r between the two vowels Thus the genitive singular in these dialects are slightly different.

**LEXICAL SIMILARITIES WITH OTHER DIALECTS**

The Bhalesi is having lexical similarities with other dialects of the area like with Bhaderwahi, Sarazi etc. Amitabh VikramDviwidi in his work "Bhaderwahi : Typological sketch". Has given the following similarities between Bhaderwahi and other pahari dialects as under :

Pangwali	Siraji	Padri	Bhalesi
45%	30%	60%	70%

Nevertheless, Dr. SiddeshverVerma in his works and linguistic tour to Bhalessa in 1928 has elucidated that Bhalesi is a distinct dialect and has a unique features like tendency to glides or diphthongal vowels of delicate pronunciation.

**DISTINCT FEATURES OF BHALESI**

Some rudimentary features of the Bhales, dialect have been described in the Linguistic Survey of India, Vol IX Part IV, but no systematic investigation of the dialect on the spot had hitherto been made. Dr. SuddeshwarVarma in his monography series published by the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal Volume IV has elucidated about the dialect of Bhalesi. Dr. varma had conducted an extensive tour of the area of Bhalessa in 1928 to study the characteristic features of Bhalesi language. He has elucidated the vowel system, Reduction, contraction and elusion, Nazalisation and Denazalisation, Accent, Striking features of the consonwents, word building verbs and numerals. The Bhalesi has been divided into two sub dialects Notehrn sub dialect and southern sub dialect.

**Features of the Northern dialect as contrasted with those of the Southern dialect- :**

1. The vowel system of the Northern dialect has a tendency to glides or diphthongal vowels of delicate pronunciation like i: i, cf. past participles-:

Northern Sub Dialect	Southern Sub	
Bhoi*	Bhoi	(She) Became
Khai*	Khai	Was Eaten
Z*ie	Z8i	Was said
Z*i*	Zoi	Were Said
Ai*	EI OR Ai	Those women came

2. **Nasal and Non Nasal Vowel System :** In the Northern dialect has in some circumstances, a nasal vowel, where the South has non-nasal. North, \* glioreotir South. 'glioreutir ' the eye of the horse. In Bhalesi dialect the neuter gender of the genitive singular has eu in the north but eu in the south.

Northern Sub Dialect	Southern Sub Dialect	
Ghoreutir	Ghoreutir	The eye of the horse

3. **Distinctive Gender form :** The southern dialect gives a distinctive gender form to neuter adjectives as in the sentence

“Inirullo matte inam Pau” “this boy got a prize here the adjective rullu (good) maintains the neuter ending u in the oblique case. In the northern sub dialect of Bhalesi this neuter ending u is optional.

4. In the northern sub dialect of Bhalesi there is a much use of post position e.g **dhalk** in the sense of “towards” the horse”.

5. In the Bhalesi dialect the conjugation of the present tense of verb ending in vowels the southern sub dialect has a tendency to Nasalize those vowels but not so much the northern.

Southern : Zutu 9I speak) dhutu (I sweep)

Northern : has Zutu, Dhutu

6. In conjugation of feminine first and second person plural present tense of verb substantive, the northern dialect has a very delicate I as final, but the southern dialect has no such vowel ending. General speaking the conjugation of the feminine present tense is slightly different in northern sub dialect of Bhalesi from that of the southern sub dialect of Bhalesi.

Present tense feminine of Khanu” “to eat”

	Sg	Pl
North	1. Khatia 2. Khatisi 3. Khati	1. Khati*m 2. Khati 3. Khati
South	1. Khati 2. Khatis 3. Khati	1. Khatim 2. Khati 3. Khati

7. In the northern dialect there is a peculiar distinction between the two kinds of future viz the future of the distant place and the future of the near place. This two fold future division is observed only in the third person plural of “bhonu” (to be) in the southern dialect is bhon only. But the northern dialect there are two forms 1. Bhon and 2. Bhol. If any even has to occur at a distant place, Bhon is used, whereas if it is to occur in the place where the speaker is speaking, Bhol is used. Dr. Varma has given such analysis in the monograph series.
8. Conjective principle in the north is made in some circumstances in the Bhalesi dialect by the addition of a, in other by keeping the root intact. In the south it is a singular ending.

North	South	
Bhui	Bhuita	Having become
Kheija	Kheita	Having eaten
Pi	Pita	Having drunk
Z0ija	Z0ita	Having spoken

9. There are the several vowels like A a I I e ee0 \* \* \* o U u y .
10. The diphthongs in the Bhalesi dialect make it a very distinct dialect of Bhalessa. In this sense the Bhalesi dialect is having distinct identity and has not dependent of the other dialects of languages. The use of diphthongs in Bhalesi dialect gives several shades of meaning . The use of diphthongs like eueu , eI , eI with delicate differences in form have diffierent meanings. The following examples make it clear.
  1. Ghoreukhur : The horse’s hoof
  2. Ghoreutir The horse’s eye
  3. GhoreuZAng (F. sg) The horse’e leg
  4. Ghorei ‘tira (N. pl) The horse’s eyes.

The diphthongs in Bhalesi are particular and the diphthongs Ai sometimes corresponds to A of other dialects.

1. ei : corresponds to ai in other dialects like BheimBhai
2. ei corresponds to e beidi, vedi
3. ei corresponds to ai of other dialects e.g “Sattei (27) – Satais or I’kei (21) ekkis.
4. 0 is found in certain grammatical forms. E.g bh0i, bhss0i.
5. The diphthong Ou occurs in m0us “husband of mother’s sister (m0usi, mother’s sister.



## NAZALISATION AND DENAZALISATION

There are traces of nazalisation and denazalisation in Bhalesi final vowels of words such as “gAu “Cow” , niu- foundation, lo- Iron, the vowels of root ‘ga- to go is nazalised in hahanu to go’ gahato, going ganu.

On the other hand, Bhalesi dialect we have a non nazal sound in ghreeri “name of the game.

## CONCLUSION

To conclude we can say that Bhalessi owing its two sub dialects spoken in north and south is having several distinctive features. Both the sub dialect of Bhalessii.e southern and Northern has differences slightly and forms the very core and give value to the grammatical features of the Bhalesi language. The use of diphthongs in Bhalesi has made Bhalesi a very distinct language of the area and is different from the other dialects or languages.

Bhalesi language comes under the western Pahari and has grammer of its own. The language is spoken in all the three tehsils of Gandoh, Kahara and chilly pingal of Doda District. The Bhalesi is classified under the western pahari grouping by the G A Grierson. The languages have been widely studied by the linguists like Ghramme Bailey, GA Grierson, Dr. SiddeshwerVarma. The language of Bhalesi comes under the indo Aryan family and is Pahari language spoken by both the Hindus and Muslsim of Bhalessa. Since the Bhalesi speaking people are from both the communities.

## REFERENCE

1. Grierson, G A : Linguistic Survey of India Volume 9 Pat IV.
2. Varma, Siddeshwer ; Bhalesi Dialect, Monograph series
3. Vaid, S.P, (2015) Paharies of J&K” : An analytical Study
4. Wesbiste of Bhalessa, [www.bhalessa.com](http://www.bhalessa.com)