

The Baloch language: A brief sketch of its morphology

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Abstract:

The aim of this paper is to discuss the dialect of the Balochi language its official and educational status in the education intuition and to take a glance over the written history of the Balochi language. The phonological and morphological system of the Balochi language will be focused to point out the grammatical system of the Balochi language.

a) Balochi language.

i) Origin.

Baloch belongs to the Iranian group of the indo European language family . Baloch is a north west Iranian language but is nowadays spoken in the south western corner of Iranian linguist area Balochi is the language of the Baloch a mainly tribal people, the great majority of whom live in the Balochistan province of Pakistan, smaller population also in Punjab and Sindh , a larger group lives in Karachi Pakistan as well as in south east Iran in the province of Sistani o Balochistan ,a smaller group in Helmand and nimrz province of Afghanistan gulf states and some parts of mari province in Turkmenistan .¹

Baloch has been classified as west Iranian Group of the Iranina branch of the indo European language family the most related language to Balochi from this group are Kurdish , sughdi ,dari, an other north west Iranian language Persian ,Pashto , tajki , ossetian and other east Iranian Laguage,²⁼

ii)**Dialects.**

Balochi language has three major dialects i.e Eastern Balochi western Balochi and southern or Rakhshani Balochi dialect .There is a noticeable difference in infinitive verbs between rakhshani and Mekrani dialect.³

There are probably around six million Balochi speakers around the world most of whom speak west dialect . It is worth mentioning that this dialect has been most widely used in Balochi literature . The eastern Baloch dialect is spoken in the north part of south Punjab and in Sindh , Easton dialect is less developed in many ways and it is most influenced by sindhi and siraik langauges spoken closed to it .

Most linguists are of the opinion that Balochi was more widely spoken in the 19th and early 20th centuries than nowadays. Especially in Punjab and Sindh there are today many people who recognize themselves as Baloch but speak other Indo Arian Languages ,Siraiki, sindhi and Punjabi. There are also Baloch both in the Gulf states and frica who have switched over from speaking Baloch to speaking and written Arabic and Swahili language respecvely.

ii)Medium of Education and official status.

The past history of Balochi language is witnessed that it has been used only as an oral language till post colonial period in Balochistan. There was no tradition of using Baloch as medium of instruction or in writing . The first printed book on Balochi has been written by major mockler an Englishman by hennery S king and co,in 1877 . Another earliest manuscript of a language teaching book has been written by kamalan Gichki a native writer of Baloch in Mekran in the same period. The most well known books of its kind is Longworth dames a text book of the Baloch language (grammar, dialogue ,stories , legend poems) publish in 190 revised edition 1922 from Lahore .Hath ram history and an Indian official wrote his book Balochi nama , in the end of nineteenth century in Persian and Urdu . while the British army officer in india learned Balochi in ordr to project their power and authority over the native people.⁴

The first institution where Balochi and Brahui were introduced as medium of instution in the end of nineteenth century was the Madrasa e durkhan or Durkani religious institution stabilized in 1880 the village of durkhan near dhadar this was the first religious school where Balochi was first time used as medium of instruction . The effort made by the madress e Durkani can be mention as a literary and religious movement for spreading religious awareness among the Baloch people thought there native language. According to an estimate⁹¹ book including translation of holy Quran in Balochi were published from here.⁶

The countries including Pakistan Iran ,Afghanistan , Turkmenistan , and the Arab gulf state .in which Balochi is spoken but neither is it considered and official language nor medium of instruction for balochi speaking area. In pakinstan in 1989 during the government of Nawab akbar Khan Bughti in Balochistan adopted use of Balochi as medium of primary education in the province until desolation of his government in 1992 at present courses in Balochi language and literature are offered at the college in Balochistan at inter and degree levels while in the university of Balochistan quetta at Master, M.phil and Ph.D level.

b) Balochi grammar

a)Phonology

The phonetic system of Balochi is characterized by a phoneme catalog comparing of eight vowels(five long aiueo and three short aiu) two diphthongs (aiand au) and some linguist use ay also as a third diphthong . there are twenty five consonants . among the vowel a long/short distention exist and is contrastive in the language. The use of retroflex articulation is a characteristic property of the Balochi sound system influence by the Indio Aryan language of India.

Chart of Balochi consonants

	Bilabial	labiodental	alveolar	Post alveolar	palatal	velar	uvular
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Stops	p-b					k-g	Q
Fricatives		f-v	s-z		X		
Affricates							
Masajees	M						
Lateral approximants							
Trill			R				
Retroflex trill							
Approximants Semi. vowels	W				j		

The are consonants in Baloch and these are pronounced with the tongue rounded back so that its bottom tunshe the roof of the mout .this type of articulation is typical of other language of the indian subcontinent.

The Balochi has borrowed retroflex phonemes form its neighboring language brahui and sindhi the nazal phone is found only in the eastern Balochi.The phonemes are found in western Balochi as in the loan words the phone found only in learned production the Arabic phonemes are not found in Balochi sounds but in thograhy these phonemes represent the loan rabic and Persian word in Baloch⁸

b)morphology

i)noun

Balochi nouns in their formation correspond closely with pension. Balochi distinguished with two number singular and plural and there are four cases in Balochi,there is no grammatical gender or historical stem in Balochi .noun inflection given below for mard mad as under:

	Singular	plural
Nominative	mard(man)	mard
Genitive	marde(mans)	mardaane(men's)
Accusative dative	Mardaa(to man)	mardaan(to men)
Oblique	mardaa(to man)	mardaan(to men)

ii) Adjective

All adjective can ,and,adjective in attributive position must take the suffix the attribute adjectives take ,and preced the noun they qualify s under:

Mazanen mard the old man
Washen naa delicious date

The predicative adjective fo not take /en/

Aa mard shar na int that man is not good
E janik shar int this girl is good

Comparative adjective in Balochi are compared by adding the ending of./tir tiren/to the position form however, adjective in the positive can also be used in comparison some time.

My pen is the best of all.

Manee	kalam sha	drustaan	shartir	int
My	pen	from all	best	is

(nom,sg)		(oble.pl)	(positive)	(presin3p sg)
Boy	is	elder	than	girl
Bachak	sha	jink	mastir	int
Boy	from	girl	elder	is

The main interrogative adjective are chunt.how/many/chinkas/how much etc .the main adjective of quantity are baaz,many several ,cheezen/few a little, some , kam /little,few⁹

iii)pronouns:

A pronoun is a word used instead of a noun the personal pronouns have the following forms:

	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person
Singular			
Nominative	man	tau(ta)	aa
Genitive	manee	tahee	aahee
Accusative/dative	manaa	taraa	aa,aaaira
Oblique	man	tau,ta ,to	aahee
Plural			
Nominative	maa	shumaa	aa
Genitive	maee	shumae	aawanee
Accusative/dative	maaraa	shumaaraa	aawaanaa
Oblique	maa	shumaa	aawaan

There is no pronoun of third person in Balochi . The demonstrative pronouns are used in its place. The demonstrative pronouns have the following forms. The proximate demonstrative pronouns are:

	Singular	plural
Nominative	e,esh	eshaa
Genitive	eshee	esaanee
Accusative/dative	eshiraa	eshiaaraa
Oblique	eshee	eshiaa

The remote demonstrative pronouns are

Nominative	aa	aawaan
Genitive	aahee	aawaaanee
Accusative/dative	aaheearaa	aawaanaaraa
Oblique	aayaa	aayaa ¹⁰

iv)interrogative pronouns

The main Balochi interrogative pronouns are.

Cha(what)kay(who)kujaam(which)

v)verb system in Balochi

verbal categories in Balochi are person ,numbered, tenses, mood and voices , person are first , second and third numbers are singular and plural

. tenses are present past , and future . there are two voices active and passive while the moods are indicative imperative and subjunctic negation in Balochi is expressed with the help of the pretibial imperative and the subjunctive . The modal imperative prefix is be or pi but this prefix is dropped in the compound verb.

vi)personal ending:

the personal ending in Balochis in fro present tense are

	singular	plural
1	un kurtum (I did)	an kurtan (we did)
2.	ay kurtay (you did)	it kanit (you do)
3	I kant(he or she do)	an kana (they do)

The person tending in Balochi for preterit tense are :

Verbal system of Balochi is like that of the other Iranin language is based on two stem present and past .the present tense is formed by presented personal edging for example:

Aa kaar kant he does

Man naan wareen I eat food

Aa rawaan we go

vii) Imperative:

The imperative in balochi is used only in second person singular and plural. The modal imperative prefix is /bi/ or /ai/ butthis prefix is dropped in the compound verbs.

viii) Compound Verbs:

the compound versbs in Balchi are formed i.e nouns, adjectives or adverbs plus the colorless verbs like *knag* (to do) or *boohag* (to become) for example.

Hisab knag (to count)

Tawaar knag (to call)

Bahaa knag (to sell)

In Rakhshani dialect instead of *knag*, *boohag* is used.

d)Syntax:

Word order in Balochi is like many other Indo-Iranian languages, as Sub+Obj+Verb (SOV).¹¹ the order between directans indirect object is akso qite free, the more emphasized object preceding the other one for example. The verbal system of the language is comprised of the two voices (active and passive), four moods (indicative, interrogative, imperative and subjunctive), two tenses (past and present/future – nb. Morphologically, there is a formal distinction between present and future forms in all verb (perfect, imperfect/continuative). Verbs agree with their subject in person and number. Complex or so-called “light” verb constructions are productive in the language. In this construction, a nominal, adjectival, or verbal element is followed by an auxiliary verb such as ‘come’, ‘become’, ‘do’, etc.

manee biraat taraa zar data

<i>daata</i>	<i>zarr</i>	<i>taraa</i>	<i>biraat</i>	<i>manee</i>
“to give”	“money”	“you”	“brother”	“my”
(gen.sg.)	(nom.pl.)	(dat.sg.)	(nom.sg.)	(gen.sg.)

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