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DIVERSITY OF LANGUAGES IN INDIA

The article monitors many sorts of languages in India. Languages are spoken differently in different regions. Previously, the states of India were identified by the languages of that region. In this article, the author goes into great detail about the origin of language and the person who played an important part in unifying India's state and surrounding states, as well as providing statistical data on the mother tongue.

Key words: *linguistic, diversity, recognize, speaking, multilingualism, mother tongue*

India is appropriately regarded as a polyglot country- a country with multiple languages. In 1947 after the freedom of India from British rule, there are many states. These states are brought together to form the union of India in part thanks to the efforts of the former home minister Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel. The Indian Constitution, which was approved on November 20, 1949, and came into force on January 26, 1950, outlined the country's union and included new states and union territories. The states are linguistically rationalized in 1950. The right to defend minority languages and the right to preserve ancient scripts and civilizations were included in the Indian Constitution. The Constitution assigns a special officer to survey the minority group's language use and motivate them to maintain their native tongue.

According to A.R. Desai, "India presents a spectacle of a museum of tongues". While the famous linguist Grierson has noted in his "Linguistic Survey of India" that India has 179 languages and 544 dialects, the 1971 census reported 1652 languages in India as the mother tongue. The majority of the languages are spoken in North India. However, not all of these languages are evenly spread;

although some are spoken by millions of people, many are tribal dialects with less than one percent of the overall population speaking them.

The states were recognized linguistically in 1950. As a result, the residents of a certain state speak a specific language. Even though, the Indian constitution recognizes eighteen main languages. Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telegu, Urdu, Manipuri, Nepali, and Konkani are the eighteen legally recognized languages. These languages are divided into three families: Indo Aryan, Dravidian, European, Austric, and Sino-Tibetan.

The use of one's native tongue in business, education, and other areas of public communication has primacy under India's pluralistic language policy. To put the language policy into practice and keep an eye on it, the Ministry of Human Resource Development established the Language Bureau.

The Indo-Aryan speech family includes Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Assamese, Bengali, Oriya, Gujarati, Marathi, and Kashmiri. Dravidian languages contain four Southern languages: Tamil, Telegu, Kannada, and Malayalam. Central Indian tribes speak Austric languages, whereas tribes in north-eastern India speak Sino-Tibetan languages.

Although Hindi is now the official language of India, English remains an associate language. According to the 1991 census, Hindi is spoken by 247.85 million people, followed by Telegu, which is spoken by 72.08 million. Bengali ranks third with 71.78 million people. The Marathi language follows (67.26 million). Tamil is spoken by 60.60 million people. Urdu and Gujarati have 46.11 million and 41.37 million speakers, respectively. Malayalam is spoken by 35.32 million people. Kannada-speaking people number 34.78 million. Oriya is spoken by 31.79 million Indians, whereas Bhojpuri is spoken by 23.11 million. Punjabi is spoken by 22.41 million people, whereas the other languages are spoken by one million to twenty million people.

Table 1
Mother Tongue Statistics 1991

<i>Language</i>	<i>Persons who Returned the Language as Their Mother Tongue</i>	<i>Percentage to Total Population</i>
1. Hindi	33,72,72,114	39.85
2. Bengali	6,95,95,738	8.22
3. Telugu	6,60,17,615	7.80
4. Marathi	6,24,81,681	7.38
5. Tamil	5,30,06,368	6.26
6. Urdu	4,34,06,932	5.13
7. Gujarati	4,06,73,814	4.81
8. Kannada	3,27,53,676	3.87
9. Malayalam	3,03,77,176	3.59
10. Oriya	2,80,61,313	3.32
11. Punjabi	2,33,78,744	2.76
12. Assamese	1,30,79,696	1.55
13. Sindhi	21,22,848	0.25
14. Nepali	20,76,645	0.25
15. Konkani	17,60,607	0.21
16. Manipuri	12,70,216	0.15
17. Kashmiri	38,79,584	0.46
18. Sanskrit	49,736	0.01

The table shows the figures of mother tongue statistics (source - mother tongue statistics, 1991).

The country's multilingualism influences every aspect of its national life. The linguistic problem has now gotten so severe that it poses a danger to national integration. Linguistic conflicts are frequently reflected in bilingual boundaries. The villages are separated into two groups based on their native languages, Marathi and Konkani. There is a tug of war in Belgaum between Marathi and Kannada-speaking people; Assam is challenged by Bengali and Assamese. Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are not immune to language issues. Their dispute persists among the Urdu, Hindi, and Oriya language communities, as well as among Urdu and Hindi speaking individuals. It has also been requested that English be included

in the Constitution's Eighth Schedule. Of course, English is a wonderful language, but the problem is that no nation is capable of becoming big with the support of a foreign language since a foreign language fails to represent the local culture.

Furthermore, each of these 18 languages has a strong literary tradition; some Indian writers have achieved international acclaim by writing in English, not only on fiction but also on technical issues. It should be noted that linguistic variety may be found in all of the Indian Union's states. In fact, after India's independence, the states were reorganized based on language, but this reorganization did not eliminate the individual states' multilingualism.

Conclusions: India is a multilingual country in which different regions have different languages. The constitution of India recognizes 18 main languages. Every state has its mother tongue, and people living in India know at least two languages their mother tongue and the language of the region in which they are settled.

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