PHONOLOGY OF BAREILLY URDU

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to establish the phonology of Bareilly Urdu. Bareilly is a city of Uttar Pradesh state in northern India and the capital of Rohilkhand region. The name Bareilly Urdu is given to the regional language of Bareilly and adjacent villages.The data for the present study was collected through field work in the old city area of Bareilly district. The task of collecting and collating the data was started by preparing a wordlist of monosyllabic words appearing in 'A Dictionary of Urdu, Classical Hindi and English' by John T. Platts. Then, we moved to the target field for finding the equivalents of these monosyllabic words in the target language community. After analyzing the data, we have established a total of 60 phonemes. Out of which 36 are consonantal phonemes and 24 are vocalic phonemes (including vowels and diphthongs).

KEYWORDS

Bareilly Urdu, Phonology, Phonemes, Vowels and Consonants.

1. INTRODUCTION

Bareilly, a city of Uttar Pradesh state in northern India, is the capital of Rohilkhand region. The northern boundary of Bareilly district is contiguous with that of Naini Tal, while the district of Pilibhit lies on the east. On its south-east lies the district of Shahjahanpur while on the south and south-west the city is bounded by the district of Badaun. Ramganga is the natural boundary between Bareilly and Badaun. On the west side of the city, lies the district of Rampur.

The city is divided into five tehsils named- Aonla, Baheri, Bareilly, Faridpur and Nawabganj. The main river of the city is Ramgangawhich separates Aonla subdivision from the rest of the district.
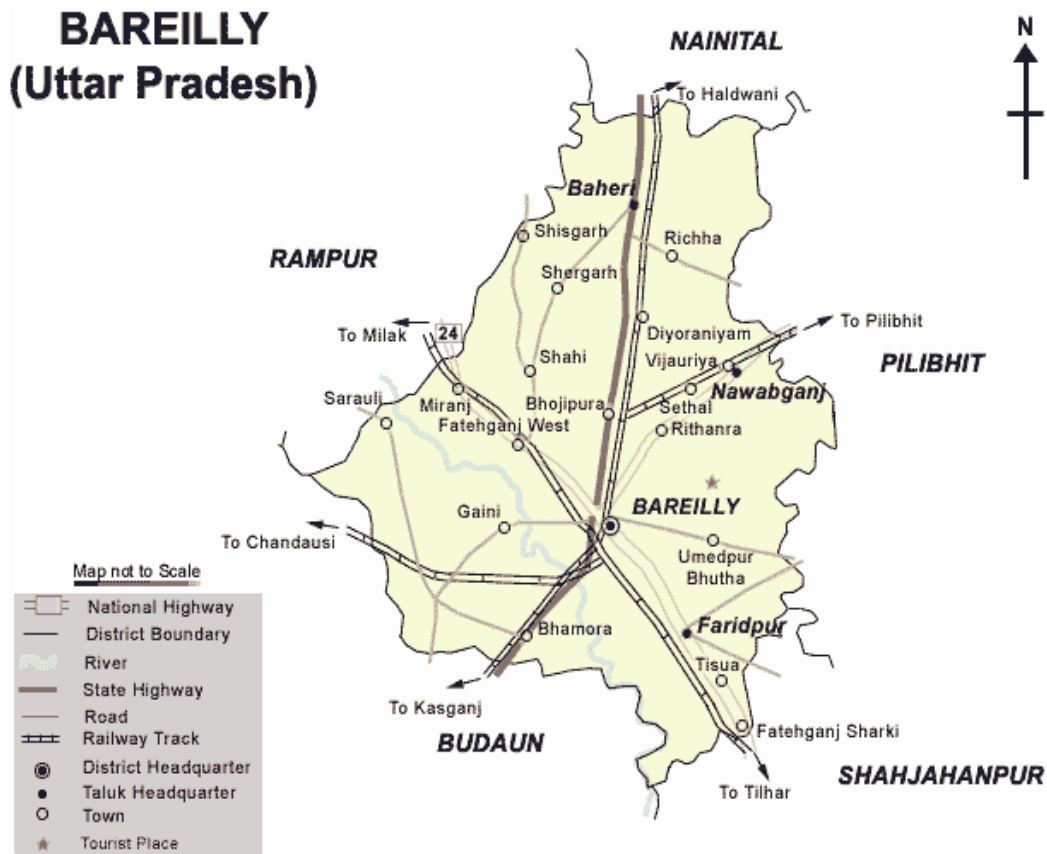
Source: mapsofindia.com_Maps _Uttar Pradesh_ District_ Bareilly

In 1657, MukrandRai laid the foundation of 'Modern' city of Bareilly, though the tradition has that the city was founded in 1537 by Bans Deo and BarelDeo, the two sons of Jagat Singh Katheriya who had founded the Jagatpur village which is still a name of one of the localities of Old City. By one account it is assumed that because of the names of its founders (Bans Deo and BarelDeo). The city is known as 'Bans Bareilly', while on the other hand, it is said that because of being a production centre for 'cane' (Bans), the city is known as Bans Bareilly. (Gazetteer of Bareilly, 1911).

In the histories, Bareilly was mentioned by Badayuni for the very first time. The city is described as the birth place of Draupadi in the epic Mahabharata. It was ruled by many Kshatriya Rajputsbut after Islamic invasion it became an integral part of Delhi Sultanate and then absorbed by the Mughal Empire. After Aurangzeb's death, in 1623, two Afghan brothers named Shah Alam and Hussain Khan settled in the region .Bareilly, then, became a center of unemployed RohillaPathans (Afghans and Pashtuns). Later on, the city was captured by Ali Muhammad Khan, the grandson of Shah Alam (one of Afghan brothers). He formed the 'State of Rohilkhand' by uniting the Rohillas, and Bareilly became the capital of the capital of the 'State of Rohilkhand'.

2. LINGUISTIC SETTING OF BAREILLY URDU

The name Bareilly Urdu is given to the regional language of Bareilly and adjacent villages. But for the uniformity of data, the present work represents the speech of the

3. ORIGIN OF BAREILLY URDU

The name Bareilly Urdu is given to the regional language of Bareilly and adjacent villages. But for the uniformity of data, the present work represents the speech of the community residing in old city area of Bareilly district, which is involved in 'Zari Work'. They are particularly the artisans, craftsmen and unskilled laborers of this region.

4. ORIGIN OF BAREILLY URDU

As Bareilly is said to be the capital of Rohilkhand region, it forms a prominent part of this region. The root of the term 'Rohilla' is taken from Pashto word 'Roh' meaning 'mountain' (mountain air). The RohillaPathans were the descendants of a Pashtuns tribe; they were the men of a taller stature and of fairer complexion. The Sardars of Rohilla like Daud Khan, Ali Muhammad Khan, and the legendary Hafiz Rahmat Khan were the descendants of a renowned tribe of Afghan . The RohillaPathans can be found all over Uttar Pradesh, but mostly in Bareilly, Shahjahanpur and Rampur district.

Rohillas were different from others by their language and their culture. They used to speak 'Pashto' among each other but over the time their language was gradually lost and converged into Urdu.

5. DIVERGENCE OF BAREILLY URDU FROM STANDARD URDU

Bareilly Urdu, a dialect of Urdu has some divergences from Standard Urdu; it may be at the level of phonology, grammar or lexicon. In this section, we have made an attempt to present some of the differences found in Bareilly Urdu from that of the Standard Urdu

5.1. At Phonological Level

1- /h/ sound is dropped medially and finally.
For Example- /rahɪ/ ⟶ /raɪ/
/rɛh/ ⟶ /rɛ/
2- Many words carry aspiration at initial level.
For Example- /bəhan/ ⟶ /bʰæn/
3- /x/ and /q/ are changed to /kʰ/ and /k/ respectively.
For Example- /xət̪/ ⟶ /kʰət̪/
/qələm/ ⟶ /kələm/
4- A number of bisyllabic words are reduced to monosyllabic words.
For Example- /rahɪ/ ⟶ /raɪ/

5.2. At Grammatical Level

The informal forms like /kʰao/, /pɪjo/, /lo/ etc are used with the honorific word /a:p/.

5.3. At Lexical Level

1- /zərɪ/ ⟶ /a:rɪ/

2- /zərdozɪ/ ⟶ /d̪ərd̪ozɪ/

6. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The aim of this study is to develop the phonology of Bareilly Urdu, as spoken by the artisans, craftsmen and unskilled laborers of old city of Bareilly.

6.1. The Collection and Collation of Data (Methodology)

Data constitutes an indispensible tool for any linguistic analysis or research. The data for the present study was collected through field work in the old city area of Bareilly district. The task of collecting and collating the data was started by preparing a wordlist of monosyllabic words appearing in 'A Dictionary of Urdu, Classical Hindi and English' by John T. Platts. This particular dictionary was chosen for preparing a list of all possible monosyllabic words in Bareilly Urdu. Then, the next important task was to move to the target field for finding the equivalents of these monosyllabic words in the target language community. Field procedures consisted of two parts, first wasthe selection of the appropriate informants while other was the collection of useful material.

The data which we collected for the present study is from one of the dialects of Bareilly Urdu that is spoken by the artisans, craftsmen and the unskilled laborers, representing a particular speech community in the Old City of Bareilly district. The informants who were selected for this particular research belonged to the lower strata of the Urdu speaking community but they all belong to different age groups.

The names of the informants with their respective ages are given below-

	Name	Sex	Age	Qualification
1.	FakhraBano	F	42	Illiterate
2.	Sameer	M	14	10th
3.	Shalu	F	17	10th
4.	Shimmi	F	15	12th
5.	Athar khan	M	51	8th
6.	Reshma Bi	F	45	Illiterate
7.	Zeba Khan	F	23	Graduation
8.	Rehan Ahmed	M	29	12th

Out of our 8 informants, 5 were females while 3 were males. Two of the informants were illiterate, although, had no formal education but were aware of some of the Urdu alphabets and were able to read the Holy Quran. The rest of them were literate and received formal education through government schools. All of them were natives of Bareilly belonging to different Muslim localities of the old city. They all possessed audible voices characterized by clear pronunciation.

The process of collecting the data was completed in various sittings. We arranged face to face interviews in their own localities which often continued for several hours. Our discussions started with the detailed narrations of some events, sometimes recounting stories of their liking etc. Initially, the data collection process was non-restrictive, means to start up with all kinds of words, phrases and sentences as they appear in day-to-day normal conversations. The use of words was seen both in isolation as well as in the larger context of phrases and sentences. Then we moved to an exhaustive collection of data by limiting ourselves to the monosyllabic words only that are found in the active vocabulary of a typical speaker of Bareilly Urdu.

It is to be noted that all the data collected was recorded in the phonetic transcription, in order to capture every phonetic detail of the sounds in Bareilly Urdu.

7. PHONEMIC CONTRAST

The phonemes of Bareilly Urdu are established on the basis of minimal and sub-minimal pair of words. For establishing contrast besides utilizing monosyllabic words, some randomly collected bisyllabichave also been employed here.

Under phonemic contrast, first we have discussed the consonantal contrast followed by the vocalic contrast. The units that are closely opposed to each other have been contrasted with one another in the present analysis.

8. CONSONANTAL CONTRAST

Here, we have presented some of the contrasts of consonants of Bareilly Urdu in the minimal and sub-minimal pairs.

8.1. Four Way Contrast of Stops (Voicing and Aspiration)

Opposing Units	Contrast	Initial	Gloss	Non-Initial	Gloss
p/pʰ/b/bʰ	p/pʰ	pal	'moment'		
pʰal			'fruit'		
p/b	pa:l	'bring up'		jap	'mutter prayers'
ba:l		'hair'		jab	'when (relative)'
p/bʰ	par		'feather'		
bʰar			'fill'		
pʰ/bʰ	pʰãn		'hood of snake'		
bʰãn			'buzzing sound'		
pʰ/b	pʰal		'fruit'		
bal			'twist'		
b/bʰ	bar		'wasp'		
bʰar			'be filled'		

t/tʰ/d/dʰ					
t/tʰ	top		'cannon'		
tʰop			'plaster'		
t/d	ta:R		'palm tree'	ba:t	'talk'
da:R			'jaw teeth'	ba:d	'afterwards'
t/dʰ	tul		'be weighed'		
dʰul			'be washed'		
tʰ/dʰ	tʰa:k		'mass, heap'		
dʰa:k			'impression of terror'		
d/dʰ	da:t		'tooth'		
dʰ a:t			'metal'		
tʰ/d	tʰa:l		'large flat metal plate'		
da:l			'pulse'		

29

T/Tʰ/D/Dʰ   T/TʰTak   'be stiched'
Tʰak   'sound of knocking'
              T/D   Tal   'pass over, pass off'   ka:T
'bite'
                Dal   'be poured, put in'   ka:D
'card'
          T/DʰTak   'be stiched'
Dʰak   'cover, conceal'
Tʰ/DʰTʰak   'sound of knocking'
Dʰak   'cover, conceal'
Tʰ/D   Tʰa:T   'luxury'   ka:Tʰ 'wood'
Da:T   'cork'   ka:D   'card'
          D/Dʰ   Dal   'be poured, put in'
Dʰal   'decline, fade'
c/cʰ/j/jʰ   c/cʰcɔk   'be astonished'
cʰɔk   'seasoning'
c/jcal   'move, go'   bac   'be run'
jal   'be burnt'   baj   'be left'
c/jʰcaT   'be bored'
jʰaT   'quickly'
cʰ/jcʰa:p   'print, impression'
ja:p   'muttering (prayers)'
j/jʰjok   'leech'
jʰok   'set fire to'
k/kʰ/g/gʰ   k/kʰkap   'cup'   si:k   'skewer'
kʰap   'be utilized'   si:kʰ   'lesson'
k/gkal   'tomorrow, yesterday'   Tʰak   'sound of
knocking'
gal   'be soften'   Tʰag   'robbe
k/gʰku:T   'crush'
gʰu:T   'gulp'
kʰ/gʰkʰul   'be opened'
gʰul   'be dissolved'

kʰ/gkʰul   'be opened'   dekʰ   'see, look at'
gul   'put out'   deg   'a large
metal pot'
g/gʰgul   'put out'
gʰul   'be dissolved'

9. VOCALIC CONTRAST

Here, we have presented the some of the vocalic contrasts in minimal and sub-minimal pairs of Bareilly Urdu.

9.1. Contrast of Short Vowels versus Long Vowels

9.1.1. Contrast Pair Gloss

ɪ/i:	pɪT	'be beaten'
pi:T	'back''	
ĩ/ĩ:bĩn	'wave, knit'	
	bĩ:n	'flute (indian)'
u/u:	bʰuk	'be pierced, be stabbed'
bʰu:k	'hunger'	
a/a:	bʰar	'be filled, fill'
bʰa:r	'weight, measure'	
ã/ã:bãn	'be made'	
bã:n	'dam'	
ũ/ũ:	bũn	'wave, knit'
bũ:n	'drop'	

9.2. CONTRAST OF ORAL VERSUS NASAL VOWELS

9.2.2. Contrast Pair Gloss

a/ã	pak	'be cooked'
pãk	'wing, feather'	
a:/ã:	ba:d	'afterwards'
bã:d	'dam'	
ɪ/ĩ	bɪl	'hole'
bĩn	'wave, knit'	
i:/ĩ:	tʰi:	'was (fem. Sing.)'
tʰĩ:	'were (fem. Pl.)'	

9.3. Contrast of Front Unrounded Versus Back Rounded Vowels

9.3.1. Contrast Pair Gloss

i:/u:	bi:T	'dung (of birds)'
bu:T	'boot'	
ɪ/u	tɪl	'sesame seed'
tul	'be weighed'	
ĩ:/ũ:	bĩ:n	'flute

9.4. Monophthongs versus Diphthongs

9.4.1. Contrast Pair Gloss

e/aɪ	de	give
	daɪ	curd
o/aɪ	so	sleep
	saɪ	fine
o/au	bo	sow
	bau	daughter in law
ɛ/au	bɛ	flow
	bau	daughter in law

In American Structural Linguistics, theoretically, the phonemes are established on the basis of substitutional-distributional criterion but practically the phonemes are established following contrast in minimal and sub-minimal pairs using meaning distinctions as a short cut method. Meaning is used as an identification tool for the listing of phonemes. On the basis of which we have established a total of 60 phonemes. Out of which 36 are consonantal phonemes and 24 are vocalic phonemes (including vowels and diphthongs).

Bareilly Urdu is rich in vowels. It has a total of 24 vowels; 12 oral and 12 nasal vowels, 20 monophthongs and 4 diphthongs. Of these 24 vowels, the 8 back-dorsal vowels are rounded in nature i.e., they involve rounding of the lips. All the other vowels, falling on the axis of articulators medium and front-dorsum are unrounded i.e., they are articulated without lip rounding. Thus the back-dorsal vowels (u, u:, ũ, ũ:, o, õ, ɔ, ɔ̃) are rounded and the medial vowels and front-dorsal vowels (i, i:, ĩ, ĩ:, a, a:, ã, ã:, e, ẽ, ɛ, ɛ̃) are unrounded.

9.5. Consonantal Phoneme

9.5.1. Point of BilabialLabio-dentalDental RetroflexPalatal VelarUvularGlottal Articulation

Manner of Articulation

Stops	p	b			t	d	T	D	c	j	k	g	q
	pʰbʰtʰdʰTʰDʰcʰjʰkʰgʰ												
Fricatives			f	v	s	z				ʃ		χ	ɣ	h
Nasals		m		n					ŋ				
Laterals			l										
Rolled							r						
Semi-Vowels		w							y				

9.6. Vowel Phonemes

9.6.1. Class I: Short Vowels Class II: Long Vowels

Oral	Front Unrounded	Central Unrounded	Back Rounded	Front Unrounded	Central Unrounded	Back Rounded
High			i:	u:		
Lower-High	ɪ		u			
Higher-Mid	e		o			
Mean-Mid		a				
Lower-Mid	ɛ		ɔ			
Low				a:		

Nasal						
High						
Lower-High	ĩ		ũ	ĩ:ũ:		
Higher-Mid	ẽ		õ			
Mean-Mid		ã				
Lower-Mid	ɛ̃		ɔ̃			
Low				ã:		

9.7. Class III- Diphthongs

9.7.1. Oralaɪau

9.7.2. Nasalãɪãu

In the phonemic inventory the consonantal units are classified in terms of 'place or point of articulation' and 'manner of articulation' and the vowels are classified on the basis of 'the height of the tongue raised', part of the tongue raised, and 'the position of the lips'.

Furthermore, on the basis of manner of articulation, the consonants are divided into stops, fricatives, nasals, laterals, rolled and semivowels while dealing with their place or point of articulation they can be classified into bilabials, labio-dentals, dentals, retroflexes, palatals, velar and glottal. The vowel phonemes are divided into three classes- long vowels, short vowels and diphthongs.

Phonemic inventory is a list of all phonemes of Bareilly Urdu; its importance is limited to this only. These phonemes are not tied in a way with one another in terms of value. Indicated by reference to points of articulation and manner of articulation these phonemes do project some substance.

10. CONCLUSIONS

On the basis of the collected data, we have established a total of 60 phonemes. Out of which 36 are consonantal phonemes and 24 are vocalic phonemes (including vowels and diphthongs). 12 oral and 12 nasal vowels, 20 monophthongs and 4 diphthongs. Of these 24 vowels, the 8 back-dorsal vowels are rounded in nature while All the other vowels, falling on the axis of articulators medium and front-dorsum are unrounded.

RECOMMENDATION

We have established the phonology of Bareilly Urdu but we must bear in mind that this study is limited in certain ways; the term Bareilly Urdu does not represent all of its native's language, it represents a particular community only and the data for this study is limited to the monosyllabic, and selected bi-syllabic, words only. This study can further be developed by conducting the same survey in the other areas of Bareilly City and establishing the phonology that represents all of its native's language.

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